





## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Labour pledges to 'reinvent NHS'

A Labour government would seek to reinvent the NHS as a public service in which commercialisation and competition played no part, according to a policy document to be published today. *Health 2000* is being released on the day the Government announces its decision on the future of key London hospitals, including Guy's and St Thomas', which will shape health care in the next century.

The announcement has been postponed for 24 hours, arousing Labour suspicions that it is timed to overshadow its health policy launch. The document commits Labour to abolishing trust hospitals and GP fundholders and ending the internal market. NHS pay beds would be phased out and a levy on all private treatment may be imposed to reflect the costs to the NHS of training medical staff who later work in the private sector. Anthony Howard, page 16

## Bomb jury undecided

The jury in the trial of three men accused of involvement in the IRA gasworks bombing in Warrington last year failed to reach verdicts last night. Páirc MacFhionn, 40, and Dennis Kinsella, 25, deny causing an explosion, attempted murder, kidnap and possession of a gun. John Kinsella, 49, denies possessing Semtex.

## Himalayan killers freed

Two forestry labourers who admitted killing a British couple in the Himalayas have walked free from an Indian court on technicalities. Paul Miles, 27, and Joanna Stickland, 28, were murdered in October 1992 while trekking. The murder weapons were never finger-printed and defence lawyers claimed their clients were beaten.

## IRA propaganda claim

Unionists and security sources criticised Amnesty International yesterday for referring to the troubles in Ulster as a war. In a 48-page report, Amnesty accuses paramilitaries of contravening the rules of war by killing civilians. Ken Maginnis of the Ulster Unionist Party condemned the report as dangerous propaganda for the IRA.

## Aid worker's funeral



The funeral of Paul Goodall, left, the British aid worker shot dead last month in Bosnia, was held yesterday in Bradford. The Rev Gill Hall told mourners at St Stephen's Church that Mr Goodall had sacrificed his life so that two other relief workers could escape and in helping suffering people in Bosnia. Mr Goodall's mother, Eileen, was taken to hospital after collapsing at the service.

## Britons 'lose £300 each'

Every adult in Britain is £300 a year worse off on average than necessary, through a mixture of "laziness, poor tax planning, lack of financial advice and failure to claim what is rightfully due", a survey published yesterday says. A total of £12 billion a year is lost, Mintel, the financial analyst, said.

## Top civil servant attacks media over arms enquiry

By MICHAEL DYNES  
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, yesterday launched a scathing attack on what he called the grossly distorted media coverage of Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Reading out a prepared statement at the end of his first day of testimony, Sir Robin appealed to the judge to ensure press, television and radio coverage and to undo "the damage which has been done to our system of government".

Sir Robin's statement, which was made with the backing of John Major and Sir David Gillmore, head of the diplomatic service, said the Civil Service's task of assisting the enquiry "has been made more fraught and onerous by grossly distorted and prejudicial allegations in the media about the role of government and individuals, including civil servants, in these matters".

He drew attention to "the meticulous way in which records were kept and preserved", without which "this enquiry would have had no prospect of reaching the truth". Earlier, however, Sir Robin had been reprimanded by Lord Justice Scott for the Cabinet Office's failure to pass on vital documents.

Sir Robin gave a personal undertaking that the Cabinet Office would hand over all relevant documents immediately. They relate to meetings between Sir Robin, Mr Major and Alan Clark, the former trade and defence minister, over allegations made by The Machine Tools Technologies Association that Mr Clark had encouraged them to emphasise the civilian uses of their equipment when applying for export licences. Mr Clark had given them "a nod and a wink", he said.

Singling out the "constant references" to "arms sales to Iraq" and gagging orders, Sir Robin said the media had given a misleading impression of the role played by ministers and officials in the export of defence-related equipment to Iraq and the abortive trial of the three Matrix Churchill employees at the Old Bailey in November 1992.

Sir Robin said that the use of the phrase "arms sales to Iraq" was misleading because



Sir Robin: enquiry "made more fraught and onerous by grossly distorted allegations"

no licences were ever granted for the export of "lethal equipment". Also, the use of "gagging orders" to describe public interest immunity certificates suggested that the Government was trying to prevent information vital for the Matrix Churchill defence from being disclosed in court, without making it clear that this was an issue for the judge to decide.

The phrase "arms-to-Iraq" has been widely used by the media because British-made machine tools exported to Iraq, while not classified as lethal, were used to make missiles

and shells. Similarly, "gagging orders" has been used because the immunity certificates were so sweeping that they effectively denied the defence lawyers the documents needed to prove the men's innocence. Such certificates were accepted by the judge in the trial of four executives of the company Ortech in February 1992, all of whom are appealing against their convictions. Citing comments made about him, Sir Robin said: "Even before I have given evidence to the enquiry there have been comments like 'The Butler did

it', 'Cabinet chief linked to Iraqi gun cover-up' and 'The trail of blood running through Whitehall in the wake of the arms to Iraq affair leads to the door of the Cabinet Secretary'.

"While I hope and believe that people do not give this sort of report more weight than it deserves, such prejudicial press comment has been distressing for individuals concerned and for their families, colleagues and close friends. The victims are often middle-ranking officials who could not have expected to be thrust in the limelight in the way in which they have."

MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## Beastly behaviour winds up Skinner behind his back

Said a Labour MP to a Tory minister yesterday: "When are you going to do something, instead of coming here and talking bull?"

"I welcome the hon gentleman's recognition of the consistency of my answers," replied the minister. We scratched our heads. Had Tim Sainsbury (a junior industry minister) heard Terry Lewis (Lab. Worsley) aright?

Mr Lewis had been in an animated mood all day. Famous in Worsley and the world as the scourge of BT's pornographic chatlines, Lewis has made headway in banning these, and is now anxious to be seen on a wider stage. Which of us cares to be remembered as Mr Pomo Chatline, even in Worsley? Sitting in the middle of Labour's prime heckling site below the gangway, Lewis has been bouncing up and down, keen to outshout Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) and Bob Cryer (Bradford S) who sit beside him.

This is not easy. Cryer is indefatigable. The Beast of Bradford had hit his stride right from the start, after Prayers, when a hapless whip processed into the Chamber to deliver a Royal Message to the Speaker. As Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, the whip (Sydney Chapman), dressed in the full regalia, tails and a white stick, brought news that Her Majesty had assented to a double-taxation agreement with Uzbekistan.

"Huh!" shouted Bob Cryer. "She doesn't pay single taxation. Nick! Ter pay. Send 'im back!" Chapman, obliged by custom to leave, anyway, nodded hastily to Betty Boothroyd and left. Cryer burling imprecations at his retreating tails.

And that was only the Beast of Bradford: the number two Beast. The supreme Beast is Dennis Skinner, whose reputation as a Beast of Bolsover guarantees attention to his every beckle. Terry Lewis watches

both, and dreams. Could he, one day, be acknowledged as the Beast of Worsley?

Yesterday he allowed a little good-humoured envy of Skinner's role to peep through. Dennis rose during an exchange about coal mining, with perhaps a firmer idea that he wanted to say something, than of what he wanted to say. Madam Speaker called him. He looked taken aback. He wobbled into a few introductory remarks about pit closures, but sounded hesitant. The Beast of Bolsover was stammering.

The Beast of Worsley looked tempted. To his left, the Beast of Bradford was chuntering away in an effort to provide the background noise of an angry proletarian crowd that Beasts appreciate. But Bolsover was not on form. "Come on, Dennis!" shouted the usual suspects on the Tory side. All the cameras were on him.

Leaning forward, Worsley flung an arm extravagantly behind Bolsover's back and commenced an exaggerated winding motion. Tories giggled as Skinner, unaware of the pantomime behind him, found his pace and began to rant more effectively. The more Lewis wound, the faster and louder Skinner got. It was a coincidence, but a happy one. There will have been recriminations in the Beasts' cage last night.

And discussion, perhaps, of a fledgling Beast on the Tory side. Phil Galle (C. Ayr) is attracting a growing reputation for his fearless rants from the very back of the government benches. The intellectual content is light (yesterday he raised a one-man storm about a P-C plot to ban British plugs and make us use two-pin continental ones; apparently no such plot exists) but the volume is magnificent. Watch out, Bolsover. "Bradford and Worsley: the Beast of Ayr is on the march!"

## Curtain rises on what 'the Butler' saw

When is a lie not a lie? Joe Joseph watched the Cabinet Secretary lead the Scott enquiry through the White Hall of Mirrors

WHEN the curtain rose on Sir Robin Butler's one-man show before the Scott enquiry, nobody could have suspected that the Cabinet Secretary's recital of his revue, *What The Butler Saw*, would begin as a Whitehall farce and end up as *J'accuse*.

Soliciting questions from the stalls, he picked on Presley Baxendale — yes, you dear, in the front row with the dangerous giggle — to pitch the first poser.

Ms Baxendale, the counsel to Lord Justice Scott's arms-to-Iraq enquiry, wanted an immediate answer to that antique political riddle — when is a lie not a lie?

"There are certain circumstances," quipped Sir Robin, evoking Archie Rice, "in which you do — and it is justified — to give half an answer."

"But the problem," Ms Baxendale replied with her disarming giggle, "is that if

you give a half-answer, the recipient feels he's got a full answer."

Sir Robin, who has been too bashful to flaunt his improvisational skills on television's *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, thought on his feet: you want proof of how half an answer can be an accurate answer? Look no further than last year's statement by ministers that the Government was not involved in negotiations with the IRA.

"This was an answer that was true, but not complete," he explained, ambling deeper into the White Hall of Mirrors. "It was not designed to mislead." Ms Baxendale ungraciously sneered. "It was

calculated not to allow the listener to know the full picture."

"Certainly," Sir Robin grinned. "But that is not the same as misleading. They got the right impression. There had been no negotiations with the IRA."

"But it must have left the wrong impression?"

"No," bashed Sir Robin. "It did not deny there had been contacts. It simply didn't cover the point. It was an incomplete answer."

When the Cabinet Secretary persisted that a half-picture can be truthful, Lord Justice Scott snapped: "One-tenth of the picture can be true, but if the end impression is mislead-

ing, 'the percentage of the picture that is true is immaterial'."

Oh dear, Sir Robin paled: "These are difficult lines to draw. It is not justified to mislead, but very often one is finding oneself in a position where one has to give an answer that falls short of the whole truth."

Before launching into his final soliloquy about the media scallywags who have tarnished the good name of ministers and civil servants, Sir Robin gave us an insight into why we would fare poorly as civil servants.

Ms Baxendale read from a bureaucratic document and was met by Sir Robin's nodding approval.

"I think that is a rather well-drafted paragraph," he gloved.

"Oh," sighed Ms Baxendale. "I'm not sure what it meant."

## Eight held in protest at Prince

FROM ALAN HAMILTON  
IN CHRISTCHURCH

EIGHT demonstrators were detained by police yesterday as the Prince of Wales left a reception in Christchurch during his tour of New Zealand. The protesters were kept well away from the Prince, who did not appear to notice them.

Security has been heightened during the Prince's five-day visit to New Zealand, after a man wielding an aerosol can got within 12 ft of him during a walkabout in Auckland. About 40 demonstrators promoting Maori rights shouted anti-monarchist slogans but failed to disrupt the Prince's programme.

Police said that one of the demonstrators had been recognised as a man who created a stir during the Queen's tour of New Zealand in 1990, when he bared his bottom in a protest for Maori rights.

Yesterday's demonstrators were detained one by one as they attempted to cross the road to where the Prince was greeting dignitaries.

Photograph, page 22

## Major dismisses empty talk

Continued from page 1  
being asked about this issue. We had all this last year — there was going to be a great leadership crisis in November but it turned out to be empty chattering — you will find the same thing this year."

The Prime Minister used a visit to Leicester to deliver an upbeat message about the economy, while life at Westminster continued to be dominated by the furor surrounding the death of the Eastleigh Tory MP Stephen Milligan. Mr Major declared that there had been a "quite startling" change in Britain's competitive position.

At a breakfast meeting, the Prime Minister looked refreshed and ready for the fray as he preached economic recovery to a hand-picked gathering of 18 Leicestershire businessmen. He told them that after a difficult two or three years the British economy was improving. Annual inflation was under 2 per cent and interest rates were down to 5.25 per cent, the lowest for a very long time. Exports were at record levels. The trade gap had not widened and British industry was striking more deeply into smaller markets. He said unit costs in industry were under control.

The Prime Minister said

when all these facts were put together, particularly with the economy growing at around 2.5 per cent, British industry and commerce was in a better position than it had been for many years. He said he understood people's perceptions that the Government did not appear to be "getting things right". But with unemployment down, interest rates down, British industry becoming more competitive, it represented an opportunity for the future which the country had not had for a long time.

Most of those present agreed with Mr Major's comment that East Midlands businessmen and women were "upbeat". David Jones, chief executive of the fashion retailer Next, said his company was "certainly" seeing the green shoots of recovery.

The Prime Minister later visited the Triumph Motorcycles factory in Hinckley, a British industrial success story after a past linked with failed Socialist experiments. At the end of his tour Mr Major looked a far happier man than the haunted figure of the previous evening. "I go back a man with a greater knowledge of the East Midlands than I had before and very glad I came," he said.

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## Sergeant's killing reinforces call to protect police

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE killing of Sgt Derek Robertson led to renewed calls yesterday for police officers to be provided with body armour and firearms in the face of rising violence from criminals.

There were also calls from MPs for capital punishment to be reintroduced for those who kill police officers.

Paul Condon, the Metropolitan police commissioner, said that he would review protection but that yesterday four officers had responded to a fairly normal incident and had not asked for protective clothing. He refused to back the general arming of the police, but added: "I won't hesitate in terms of body protection, guns, whatever is necessary in appropriate circumstances to arm and protect police officers."

The Metropolitan police has

3,000 sets of stab-resistant body armour which are issued to officers attending "expected emergency situations".

Mr Condon said that the equipment was not available to protect every single officer. "It is not viable to have every officer wearing stab-resistant clothing all the time. If there was a light-weight dual-purpose body armour, resistant to both stabbing and bullets, I would purchase sets of that kit for every member of the Metropolitan police."

Sergeant Robertson is the sixth London police officer to be killed since PC Keith Blakelock was hacked to death by a mob during a riot on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, north London. The last London policeman to be killed was PC Patrick Dunne who was shot last

October as he went to investigate gunfire at a south London house.

With injuries to police officers in England and Wales at more than 19,000 a year, the Home Office and chief constables have considered better protection.

There are also calls to increase the number of armed response cars. Many officers still do not want to be armed, although Britain and Ireland are the only west European countries where guns are not routinely carried.

Roger Gale, Tory MP for Thanet North, said: "Either we bring back capital punishment as a deterrent, or we arm our police. I do not like either but I would sooner we brought back capital punishment."

New penalties for the killing of a police officer are advocated by the Police Federation. Yesterday Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan branch of the federation, said Sgt Robertson's death would "increase the call for police officers to be armed. My own view is changing rapidly. I don't see any alternative."

Mr Bennett said an armed response vehicle, one of the units carrying officers and guns that patrol London, had been on its way to the scene but had not arrived in time. "We always maintained that the delay with these vehicles could cost lives," he said. He called for stronger legislation against people carrying knives, such as the power to stop and search and to arrest.

Better protection for police could either mean body armour or bigger truncheons. The British Transport Police began issuing body armour last year and now Northumbria police are buying 600 lightweight vests at a cost of £250 each. A strong vest that would be light enough for general use is being researched by the Home Office.

In the search for defensive weapons short of guns, forces have been testing an extending truncheon and last year Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, reversed Home Office opposition to US-style side-handle batons.

## Popular officer paid 'ultimate sacrifice'

Continued from page 1

Mr Condon said: "They are aware of what they face day in, day out, and they do it courageously."

The death of Sgt Robertson is certain to stir fresh debate about the need for better protection for police officers on Britain's streets.

Police leaders are currently asking officers for their views on carrying arms and last night Conservative MPs were talking of trying to reintroduce capital punishment for the murder of an officer on duty.

Chief Supt Kessick Jones of South Norwood division, where Sgt Robertson worked, said: "He was a lovely man, a popular well-respected supervisor, a very active and enthusiastic policeman and also a very courageous one."

He said a smile was never far from Sgt Robertson's face and he was a man with "a good sense of humour, very popular with the troops, and we are absolutely devastated".

Mr Robertson started as a cadet in the 1970s. He had a variety of postings, including

CID, and had been stationed at South Norwood for about three years.

He was slightly injured in the disturbances at Welling last year when police intervened to prevent anti-racist protesters marching on the British National Party's headquarters but had carried on working.

Jesse Filmer, 38, who lives next to the post office, was at home with his eight-year-old son when he heard sirens and saw police vehicles and ambulances speeding past.

"My little boy ran outside to see what was going on and I went with him," he said. "We saw hundreds of police everywhere and one of the gang was pinned up against the post office window. Several officers were holding on to him."

The postmaster was standing alone covered with blood from the policeman he had tried to help.

Last night a carpet of flowers marked the scene of the killing as a steady stream of people from the area left their tributes to the officer.

## Street surgery can save lives

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE roadside heart surgery to try to save the life of Sgt Robertson was the third time Dr Sean Keogh had attempted the controversial operation.

Members of the London Hospital's helicopter ambulance team carried out an emergency phorocotomy to allow Dr Keogh to massage the heart to keep the blood circulating during the helicopter trip to hospital.

Dr Keogh said: "We brought him back with his heart being pumped and handed him over to casualty."

On Christmas Eve, a man

with multiple stab wounds survived after Dr Keogh performed open heart surgery at the roadside, but a second case died.

"I know it works because I have a survivor," he said. "But it only works in the right circumstances — with penetrating injuries to the heart. It will not work for heart attack victims. You wouldn't do it unless it was a dire situation and you don't have time to get the patient to hospital."

"If a patient is bleeding to death and too ill to make the trip to hospital you have to

stabilise them. You open up the chest and repair the damage — a hole in the heart, a torn lung or a punctured blood vessel."

Dr Keogh, who gained experience of the procedure in Soweto, South Africa, said it had been tried by the helicopter ambulance service "but without much success". He said it was a recognised procedure in casualty departments in South Africa and America, but it was not yet established that it worked on the street. "We believe there is a place for it," he said.

## Lord Nelson error makes its mark

By KATE ALDERSON

THE world of postal history was rocked yesterday when one of the country's leading stamp and envelope dealers was fined £3,000 by Macclesfield magistrates after wrongly claiming that the signatures on two envelopes it sold were by Admiral Lord Nelson.

David Shannon of Hertford, membership secretary of the Nelson Society, paid £250 for what he thought were letters signed by the naval hero. On further analysis, he discovered the signatures were not only written by a right-handed man — Nelson

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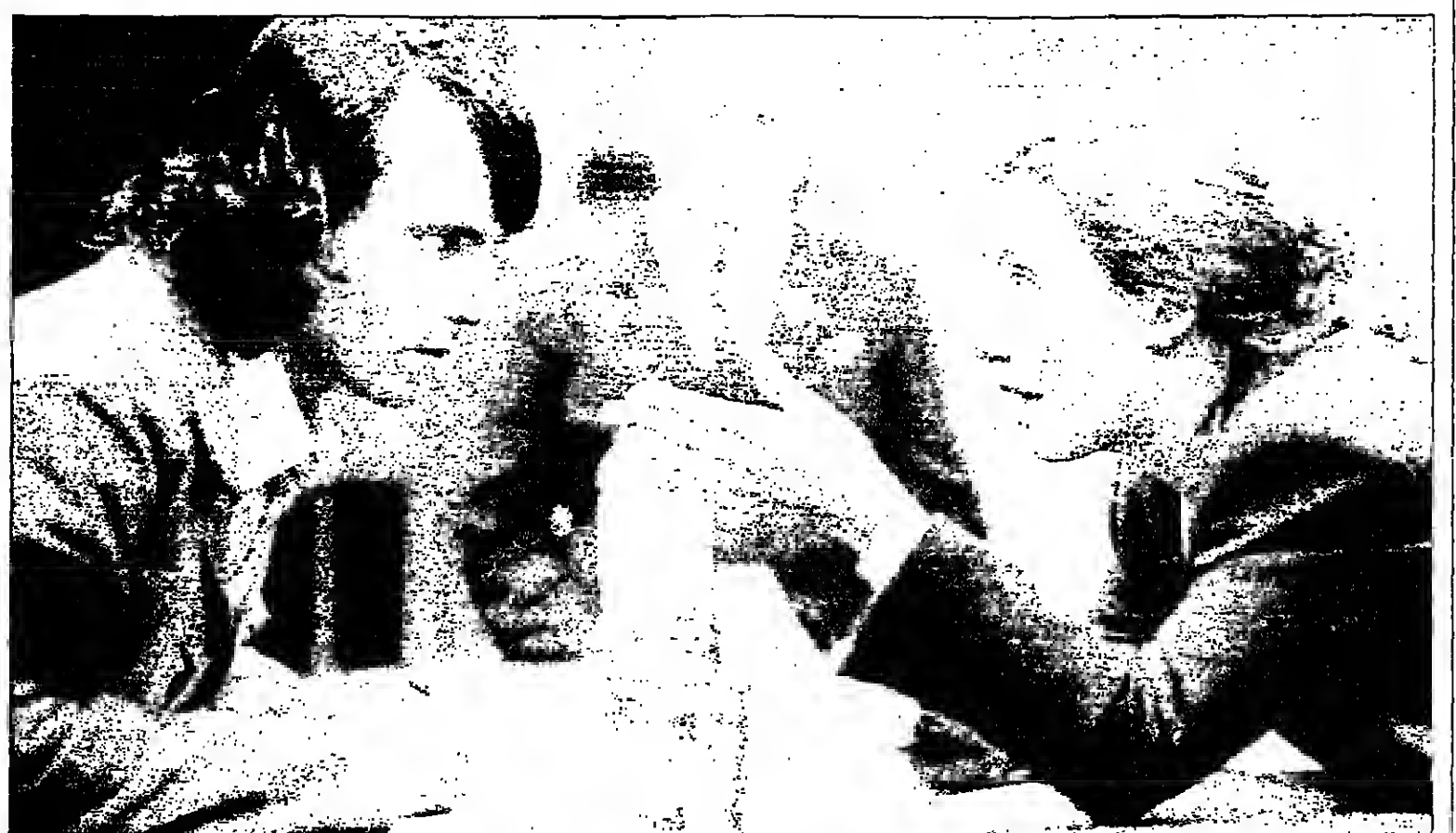
The disputed signature

lost his right arm in 1797 — but were dated four years after he died in 1805.

Mr Shannon believes the signatures are those of Nelson's brother, William. He reported his discovery to Cheshire trading standards after the same envelopes were advertised later by Sanda-fayre Limited of Knutsford.

Vincent Green, the managing director, pleaded guilty to offences under the Trade Descriptions Act. Outside court he said: "This single mistake has come as a tremendous shock and is regrettable."

Diary, page 16



Emma Thompson with Daniel Day-Lewis in *In the Name of the Father*, above, and with Anthony Hopkins in *The Remains of the Day*



## UK shines in Oscar nominations

Continued from page 1  
Picture Academy's traditional reluctance to honour the same star two years in succession, Holly Hunter is likely to emerge as favourite for this year's best actress. She was nominated for her performance as a mute Scots woman arriving in New Zealand for an arranged marriage in *The Piano* and as best supporting actress for her part in *The Firm*.

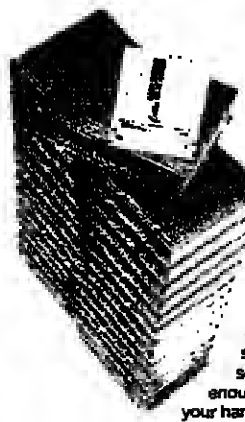
Hollywood insiders suspect that voters will swing back behind home-grown talent this year, in which case Tom Hanks will be hotly tipped to take the best actor award for his role as a lawyer suffering with Aids in *Philadelphia*.

The United Kingdom has its first entry in the foreign language film category with *Fledd Wyn* (Blessed Peace), commissioned by S4C, the

Welsh television channel, in which the dialogue is entirely in Welsh. The title was the nom-de-plume of Elis Evans, a young North Wales poet, called to serve in the trenches. He submitted his work for competition in the National Eisteddfod but was killed in France without knowing that he had been awarded the winning prize, a Bardic chair later covered in black in mourning.

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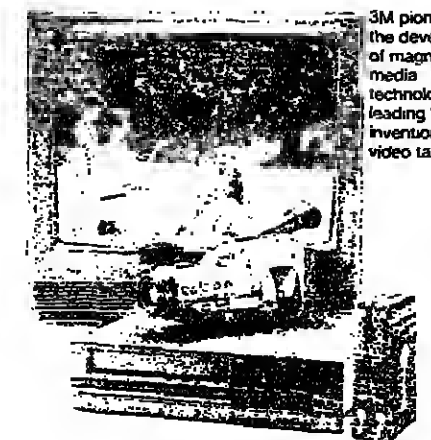
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## 'Authorities cannot impose their opinion about the morals of blood sports'



The Quantock staghounds in action: the hunt's members claim that the council has wasted money policing its ban while valuable community services have been cut back

## Court declares hunting ban illegal

By Bill Frost

A BAN by Somerset County Council on the Quantock Staghounds was overturned by a High Court judge yesterday, who ruled that the local authority had acted unlawfully. However, while the field sports lobby welcomed the decision, there was a warning that extremists would intensify their campaign against deer hunting.

Mr Justice Laws told the High Court that Somerset county councillors exceeded their powers when they voted by 26 to 22 last August to ban hunting at Over Stowey Common because they found the sport "morally repugnant". The judge said the law "confers no entitlement on a local authority to impose its opinions about the morals of hunting on the neighbourhood".

Chris Clarke, leader of the Liberal Democrat-controlled council, described the ruling as "quite extraordinary". He said that the decision had far-

**A legal ruling against Somerset County Council is likely to affect 34 other areas where hunting has been banned**

reaching implications for 34 other county councils that had introduced bans.

"I am sure they will want to join us in mounting an appeal. But it goes very much further than that because of the way the judge dwelt on whether councillors have the right to bring moral or ethical considerations into the way they make decisions."

"Nine people out of ten want a ban on blood sports because they find them abhorrent. They are going to be hugely disappointed," he said.

Robin Webb, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, predicted yesterday that the Quantock Staghounds would become the target of "sophisticated and professional extremists. If they are not worried by the

judgment they certainly ought to be," he said.

The Justice Department, a shadowy group of anti-bloodsports campaigners, would have the Somerset hunt in their sights, Mr Webb claimed. "Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch takes them very seriously — it has already sent letter bombs to a number of blood sports people. With this ruling the Quantock Staghounds must now be close to the top of its list."

The Justice Department came to the attention of police last autumn after explosive devices were posted to those "on the hit list". Mr Webb said. In November the Animal Liberation Front received a video from the group which showed a letter bomb being assembled and detonated.

"They are very sophisticated in their methods and very determined. The risk they pose after this ruling should not be underestimated," Mr Webb said.

The League Against Cruel Sports echoed the warning. Extremists would now be encouraged to extend their "illegal campaigns of violence and intimidation," it said.

"If the democratic process is closed to peaceful campaigning groups such as ours, it can only encourage the extreme minority elements of the animal rights movement to extend their activities," a spokesman said.

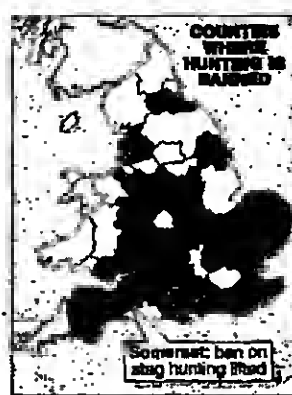
"We appeal to the Government to uphold the democratic process. Parliamentary time should now be provided for an immediate debate on whether hunting should be banned," he added.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare expressed "deep disappointment" at the ruling. Richard Moore, executive director, described it as "a real blow for the vast majority

of people in the country who consider hunting wild animals with hounds an outdated and unnecessarily cruel pursuit".

Local councils across the country that were introducing bans were "honouring their commitment to the people who elected them and were responding to public demand", he said.

However, William Fewings, master of the Quantock Staghounds, said of the judgment: "This is wonderful news. The



hunt can get back to normal now." He said the council, at considerable cost to ratepayers, had been policing a 140-acre strip that divided two sections of hunt country. "They have cut down on schools, hospitals and the fire service, yet they spend money like this. I hope the leader of the council will now have the decency to resign."

The British Field Sports Society said the judge's ruling would be widely applauded. The hunt had played a "vital role" as part of the Quantock Deer Management and Conservation Group.

The society claimed that many people did not understand that the hunt played an important role in preservation and contributed to village life and countryside management. "We believe it is this fundamental misunderstanding of part of the area they claim to represent that has pushed the Liberal Democrat-controlled council to act beyond their powers," it said.

## Shoppers 'prefer high-street stores'

By Dominic Kennedy

ALMOST twice as many Britons shop for their main groceries in high streets as at edge-of-town superstores, according to a survey.

The great majority of shoppers interviewed agreed that "local shops are an important part of the community", lending popular support to this week's decision by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, to discourage the trend towards out-of-town shopping. Among the apparent dislikes of consumers about the newer, larger superstores is the wide variety of items on sale, including unfamiliar products.

Shoppers said that on a typical expedition to an edge-of-town superstore they would waste more than £2 on "exotic" items which were later thrown away, stored or never used. The average weekly shopping bill was £54, according to the survey, which was published yesterday by the supermarket chain Gateway.

The Market researchers RSL interviewed 1,111 shoppers before Mr Gummer told the Commons on Monday that he wanted "town centres which serve the whole community". He has signalled that planners will encourage shopping developments in town centres or within walking distance of homes.

Sixty-six per cent said they chose high streets and local shopping centres for their main grocery shopping. This included supermarkets (44 per cent), specialist shops such as butchers and bakers (6 per cent), and a combination of supermarkets and specialist shops (16 per cent). The remaining 34 per cent prefer edge-of-town superstores.

There was more than 90 per cent support for the statement "it would be a shame if local shops and local high streets disappeared". All but 11 per cent used high street or local shops at least once a week.

Nearly 75 per cent of local shoppers had visited edge-of-town grocery superstores, but did not go back. Their reasons included having no car and the excessive amount of time spent travelling and shopping.

## Olympics expenses claims queried

By John Goodbody and Ronald Falk

THE expenses incurred by the team that masterminded Manchester's bid to host the Olympic Games is being investigated by a House of Commons committee.

The national heritage select committee will examine bids for the Olympic and Commonwealth Games and the staging of the 1991 World Student Games in Sheffield which lost more than £10 million.

Labour MPs in the North West of England have protested that they were not consulted by Manchester about the bidding strategy and have questioned the cost of travel and hospitality. Manchester received about £8 million from the Government and the private sector to promote the millennium Games. Graham Stringer, the Labour leader of Manchester City Council, insisted yesterday that most of the funding had come from these two sources, although he admitted there had been a mistake in the way the accounts had been presented.

However, Robert Litherland, Labour MP for Manchester Central, claims that the council spent nearly £900,000 on attempts to get the Games. Mr Stringer said in response yesterday that hospitality for Olympic committee members was restricted to little more than cups of tea. "We did not charter any aircraft, fund Olympic trips or spend council-taxpayers' money on big banquets for VIPs. All that was paid for by the Manchester Olympic bid committee, which was outstandingly successful in raising money from private sources and from the Government."

Manchester last week beat London to become England's nomination for the 2002 Commonwealth Games. The building of the main stadium and swimming complex in the North West will cost nearly £250 million.

Manchester has three times unsuccessfully tried to hold the Olympics, including an attempt for the 2000 Games last September, which received only 11 votes in the ballot of the International Olympic Committee.

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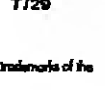
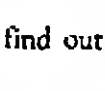
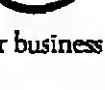
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## MacGregor sets out curbs to tame young drivers

By Tim Jones, Transport Correspondent

NEW drivers convicted of serious motoring offences will lose their licence and be forced to take a much tougher test, the Transport Secretary announced yesterday.

In the most radical shake-up of motoring since testing was introduced nearly 60 years ago, the campaign to reduce the number of road accidents will be extended to schools. John MacGregor also intends to introduce post-test driver training, with the financial incentive of lower insurance premiums for drivers who attend the courses.

A mandatory theory test, as well as the on-road test, will be in place by July 1996. Mr MacGregor believes this will reduce significantly the accident rate among newly qualified drivers, in particular by improving their anticipation of hazards.

Under the road safety education programme, the Transport Department will be working with the private and voluntary sectors to prepare material for use in schools.

But Mr MacGregor said that the case for introduction of P plates for probationary drivers had not been proven. "Further consideration will be given to this measure when the full results are available of a study into the 'Restricted' plates that are in use in Northern Ireland."

Although the new measures will affect all newly qualified drivers, they are aimed primarily at young motorists. Mr

MacGregor said: "Drivers of 17-21 represent 10 per cent of licence holders. They account for over 1,000 deaths — 25 per cent of road deaths. I am determined to cut this unnecessary waste of lives."

The measures I am introducing will tackle the inexperience which causes most new-driver accidents and be coupled with a tighter enforcement regime for those who will not learn."

Drivers who commit a serious offence within two years of qualifying will have to retake their test. Offences that will invite automatic retesting will include causing death by careless driving when unfit through drink or drugs, most offences related to drink-driving and speeding.

Andrew Howard, head of road safety at the Automobile Association, said: "We welcome any proposals to tame the small minority of younger motorists, especially young men, who drive dangerously. All young drivers have to learn that getting their driving licence allows them the privilege of using a car to get safely and conveniently from one point to another. It does not give them the right to drive as they please."

David Worslett, the RAC's director of public affairs, said: "Strict standards of post-test driver training covering driving at night and on motorways will help new drivers to learn about the risks of the real world."

## Tested to the limit

THE difficulty of the driving test depends largely on the country in which it is taken.

In Germany, every learner has to take 12 lessons, each of 90 minutes, to prepare for an exam on the theory of driving.

If the learner — who must be 18 before he can drive — passes the written exam, he moves on to the practical instruction, which must include Autobahn and night driving. The Autobahn features in the hour-long test. In America, where people

can drive at 16, traffic laws and the driving tests vary from state to state.

Before the actual driving test, learners are required to pass a multiple-choice written examination. In California, one question asks whether after a crash a driver should have a very stiff drink or call the police.

One man who recently took a Californian test said: "Before if you are given a booklet which contains all the answers. A parrot could pass."

## Bank of Ireland Base Rate

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 9th February 1994 its Base Rate is reduced from 5.50% to 5.25%



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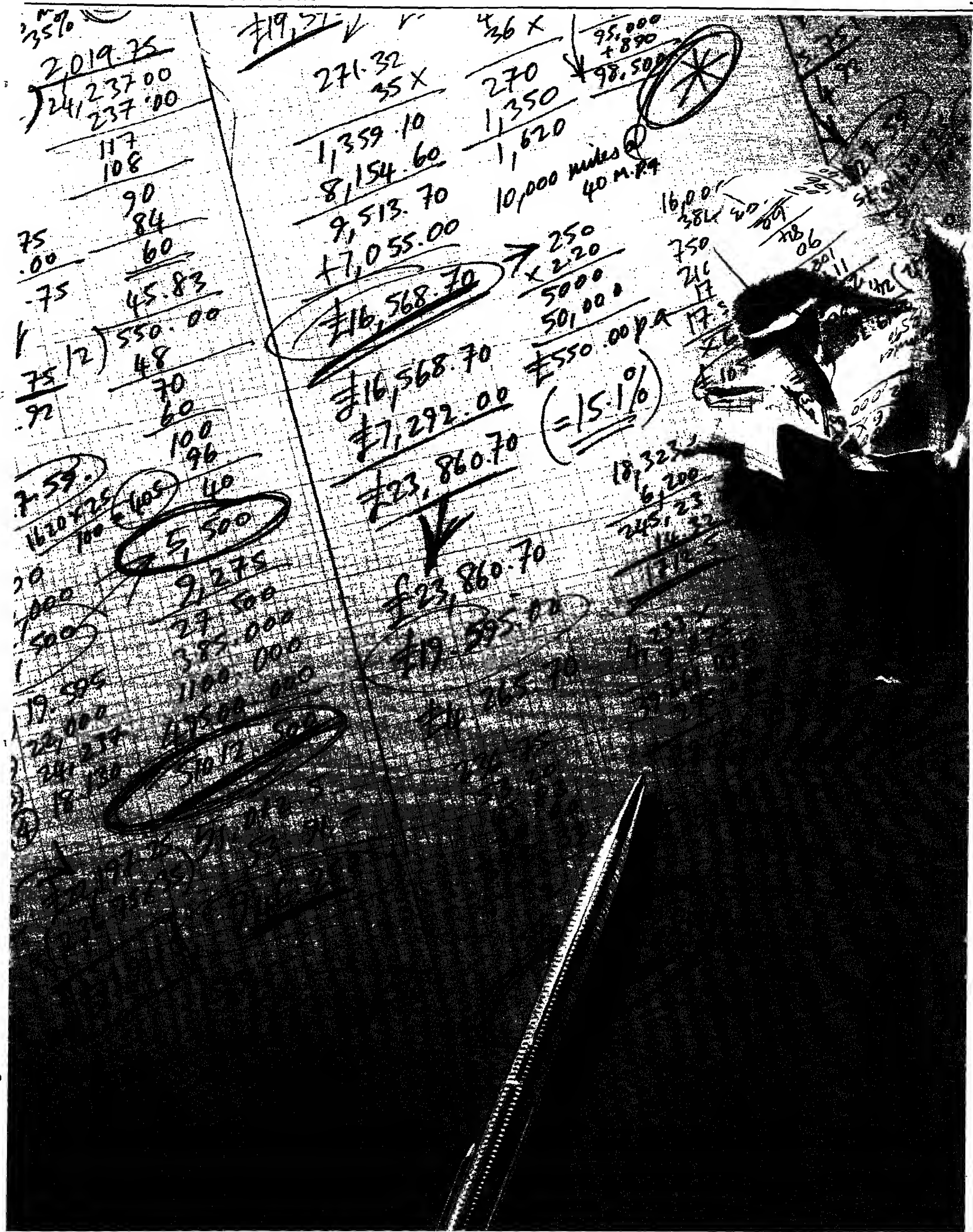
Bank of Ireland announces  
...with effect from close  
...business on  
February 1994 its Base  
Rate has reduced from  
... to 5.25%

**Bank of Ireland**

**Girobank plc  
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Inspectors condemn students' poor attendance and 'free use of colloquial language'

## Progressive school warned to improve or face closure

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SUMMERHILL school — a bastion of progressive ideals, optional lessons and mixed nude swimming — was yesterday given two months to answer a critical report by government inspectors.

The independent boarding school, founded in 1921 by the Scottish educationist A.S. Neill, faces closure if it fails to satisfy John Patten, the Education Secretary.

The inspection team concluded that standards at the £5,000-a-year school in Leiston, Suffolk, were low. Attendance was poor, children's progress was slow and their schooling needs were poorly served, the report by the Office for Standards in Education said.

The school provides alternative education where children are given considerable freedom. Pupils and staff enforce the few rules within a framework of youths being "helped to live" not taught to earn a living.

Parallels were drawn between Summerhill and William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies* after a Channel 4 documentary two years ago showed pupils hunting a rabbit and beheading it.

Zoe Readhead, the founder's daughter and Summerhill principal, rejected



A.S. Neill: founded the boarding school in 1921

ed the findings. She said the report failed to capture the essence of the school. "It is intolerable that we should be inspected by people without any interest in alternative education," Mrs. Readhead said. "It's rather like a church being inspected by atheists."

Mrs. Readhead said the inspectors were blind to the school's goals and judged it against standards it was not trying to meet. "Our aim is not to secure a stream of As at GCSE. You cannot judge happiness, confidence and responsibility with a piece of paper."

While pupils' behaviour was generally good, the inspectors noted that their "free use of colloquial language" and regular non-attendance of lessons would not be tolerated in conventional schools. Sanctions against pupils who misbehave are negotiated by a tribunal involving all staff and pupils.

The inspectors recommended that complaints procedures required by the Children Act be established because there was potential for the "abuse of trust".

The report said: "There is physical contact between staff and children which is of a caring and comfortable kind and no improper behaviour was observed. There are, nevertheless, risks that children, particularly girls, could acquire behaviour which makes them vulnerable, within and outside the school."

Summerhill's roll fell after an inspection in 1990, but has bounced back. It has 38 boys and 28 girls, aged between six and 17, with 21 Japanese and seven German pupils.



Summerhill's ideals allow mixed nude bathing, pictured in its prospectus, as an extra-curricular activity

## 'Older kids have to run the place'

FORMER pupils of Summerhill unhesitatingly defend their Alma Mater, fondly remembering their unconventional schooldays (Ben Preston writes).

Caroline Jackson, 42, attended between 1962 and 1967 and left, unusually, with five O-levels. "I was occasionally unhappy but, overall, I enjoyed myself and benefited from the experience."

Mrs. Jackson, philosophy graduate from the University of East Anglia and deputy secretary at the University of North London, said: "Summerhill taught me self-reliance, responsibility and that most things are down to what you do yourself." She said that A.S.

Neill, the school's founder, who was still at the helm during her time, was proud of organising Summerhill on the principle that his vote was no more influential than that of a five-year-old pupil.

Although new pupils sometimes went "a bit wild" and dropped out of academic work for a couple of years, Mrs. Jackson said there was hardly any bullying and no drug-taking. Some pupils did smoke but misbehaviour was restricted to the odd, discreet bottle of cider, she said.

"Sex inevitably raised its head. But pupils were very conscious of the problems it would cause if it happened in the full sense. A.S. Neill was worried

that if the school gained a reputation for children having sex it would provide a reason for possible closure."

Mrs. Jackson said, however, that she will not send her two children to Summerhill, but only because she does not want them to board.

Albert Lamb, 45, went to Summerhill between 1961 and 1965 before studying film at New York University. His daughter, Jasmine, 17, and son Roli, 15, also attended. He said: "Summerhill teaches children responsibility at an early age. The older kids really have to run the school and carrying that authority around is tremendous experience."

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## Accidents at work cost up to £16bn a year

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UP TO £16 billion a year is lost because of accidents at work and work-related ill-health, according to the Health and Safety Executive.

New figures from the government agency, said to be the most comprehensive estimates of the cost of accidents, prompted sharp attacks from trade unions on government and employer safety practices.

John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, emphasised the "huge price" of accidents made clear by the HSE report, and said that seven out of ten accidents at work occurred because managers failed to take adequate precautions.

Judith Church, health and safety officer for the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, said the findings exposed "the lunacy of the government's health and safety policy", which did not grasp that economic success and good health and safety standards went hand in hand.

The HSE concluded that the annual cost of work-based accidents and ill-health was £11.6 billion — 2.3 per cent of gross domestic product. Each year there are about 1.6 million accidents at work and 2.2 million people suffer from ill-health caused or exacerbated by conditions at work. Thirty million working days are lost as a result.

## Parents fear a repeat of Bulger abduction

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE spectre of James Bulger's abduction is still etched in the memories of British parents more than a year after he was murdered, according to a survey published today.

Out of 1,000 parents interviewed this year, 97 per cent cited the possible abduction of their children as their greatest fear. Many said that video images of the two-year-old being taken by his killers were fresh in their minds.

Kidscape, the children's charity, conducted the survey to assess the effects of a safety campaign launched last year. Nine out of ten parents who saw the campaign began teaching their children how to respond if they were approached by strangers.

Michele Elliott, the charity's founder and director, said: "Spontaneous recall of those television images was demonstrated by parents. It seems that the James Bulger case has focused parents' minds on the dangers facing their children."

The survey showed that almost all parents regarded the world now as a more dangerous place for children than when they were young. Drugs, alcohol, promiscuous sex and AIDS were considered to be daily threats to their children's welfare.

## Motorists offered new route to appeal over parking fines

By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first parking ticket adjudicator yesterday promised "rough but fair justice" for some of the thousands of motorists who each year believe they have been unfairly treated by traffic wardens.

Caroline Sheppard, 42, is part of the government-backed effort to decriminalise parking offences and remove from police and magistrates' courts the burden of dealing with contested cases.

From July all traffic wardens in London will be employed by local authorities, rather than the police, and Miss Sheppard and her team, financed by the councils, will act as judge and jury for motorists who consider they have been the target of over-zealous officials.

Other cities, including York,

Coventry and Bristol, are considering appointing adjudicators.

Miss Sheppard promises a free, friendly and fast service. She has heard about 30 cases so far, coming down in favour of the motorist in about 60 per cent of them. Her team will handle up to 100,000 cases a year.

Motorists can visit her office and discuss their case sitting round a table, or can write in detailing their complaints. "I promise drivers rough but fair justice, although if they lose their appeals that is tough," she said.

Miss Sheppard, who has received six parking tickets, spent 16 years as a clerk in magistrates' courts and believes she has heard every excuse in the book. "One man said he had to park on double yellow lines because he was buying a python and didn't want to carry it through the streets. His case collapsed when he couldn't produce a receipt."

Other drivers undergo a strange metamorphosis. "County ladies show for the Chelsea Flower Show suddenly become hysterical monsters. It's all to do with the psychology of car ownership."

Last year more than two million parking tickets were issued in London, resulting in about 20,000 contested cases at magistrates' courts.



Sheppard: team will hear up to 100,000 cases a year

## KEENE on CHESS

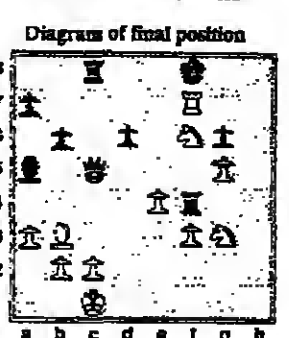
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Queen sacrifice**  
Nigel Gallagher of Glasgow has sent me the following game. The key is the queen sacrifice on move 31.

White: Nigel Gallagher  
Black: H Richter  
club match, 1993

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	c5
3	d4	c5
4	Nf3	Nf6
5	h3	Nf6
6	Be4	Qb6
7	Nd3	Bg4
8	Qc2	Bf5
9	Qc2	g5
10	Qc2	g5
11	Be5	Be7
12	Qd3	Qd6
13	Be6	g6
14	Nd5	Qd6
15	Nd2	Kf8
16	Qc3	Nd4
17	Nf1	Qd4
18	Re3	Qd4
20	Qd4	Qd4
21	Qc3	Qd4
22	Be3	Qd4
23	Ng3	Qd4
24	h4	Qd4
25	h5	Qd4
26	Ng6	Qd4
27	Qc2	Qd4

22	Qd4	Rf7
23	g5	Be5
30	Nd6	b6
31	Nd7	Rd4
32	Nf6	Kg7
33	Rf7	Kf5
34	Rf7	checkmate



### Readers' games

Readers are invited to submit their games to me c/o *The Times*, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN.

### Nice results

At the tournament in Nice the scores were: Mitkov (Macedonia) 8 points; Efimov (Georgia) 7.5; Palac (Croatia) 7; Santo-Roman 6.5; Lamoureux 6; Bacrot, Anic, Prie and Markotic (Croatia) all 5.5; Relange 4; Touzane 3; Tasic 2. Players French unless stated.

Winning Move, page 44

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## Computer games to have cinema-style ratings

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE computer and video games industry has introduced a voluntary cinema-style ratings system to give guidance on the amount of violence and sex.

All games will carry a sticker indicating the suitability of the product for four age groups. The game based on Walt Disney's *Aladdin* will be classified as suitable for all ages. A game derived from the film *Jurassic Park* will be marked as unsuitable for under 15s while the more violent *Mortal Kombat* series will be specified as unsuitable for under 18s.

Roger Bennett, general secretary of the European Leisure Software Publishers Association, which represents leading games manufacturers, said there was also an 18-plus classification but none of the games on the market would qualify for that rating.

Mr Bennett said the system was needed not only to protect children but also to reassure parents, many of whom suffered from "technophobia" and found computer and video games inaccessible. The move

follows growing public concern about the effect of violent material on children. Geoffrey Carver of the Professional Teachers Association said: "We welcome this measure, but would like to see more research into the effects of computer games."

"We are concerned that computer games can be addictive and lead to withdrawn behaviour. They might even heighten aggression after children have played them as they copy the action they have seen on the screen and retreat

into a kind of fantasy world," Mr Carver was particularly concerned about the development of more realistic graphics, and the increasing use of violent themes. In *Mortal Kombat*, by Sega, characters rip out opponents' organs.

The new system will be linked to guidelines introduced in specialist retailers, which require shop assistants to judge whether a customer is old enough to buy a game. Also, shops are distributing a leaflet for parents which requests their co-operation in

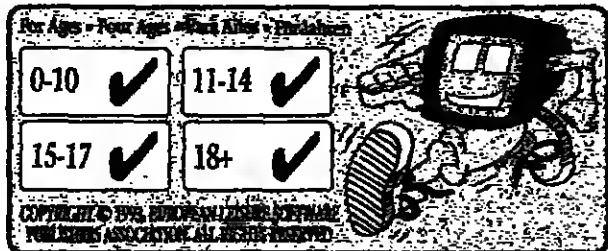
helping to implement the rating system.

These measures are part of the games industry's effort to avoid statutory regulation. Peter Luff, Tory MP for Worcester, said that legislation would be introduced to control games unless the industry, worth £750 million a year in the UK, could show it was cleaning up its act.

The games are exempt from the statutory classification system operated by the British Board of Film Classification as they have digitised rather than film images.

The new ratings system will be monitored by the Video Standards Council. John Pascoe of the council said: "There will be ethical and moral criteria included in the ratings system, as well as practical considerations."

The manufacturer will be responsible for choosing the rating for its products, but the council will be able to challenge it. Companies found to have abused the system will be disciplined and could be thrown out of the European association.



The new sticker to show the suitability of each game



Athlete Sally Gunnell with Lee Atkinson, 7, from Co Durham, who received a Child of Achievement award for learning to walk after being born with cerebral palsy

## Lawyers face fines over court delays

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS who fail to estimate the length of their cases and cause damaging delays for other litigants may be fined, a High Court judge said yesterday.

Mr Justice Hall said that inaccurate estimates caused disruption, inconvenience, substantial delays in court work and prejudiced other cases. His comments in the High Court family division came at the end of a seven-day hearing that lawyers had estimated would take three days.

The judge said that in future lawyers who were guilty of failing to estimate case lengths accurately could find themselves having their "minds concentrated" by financial penalties.

Referring to sensitive cases involving the care of children, he said: "Most have been waiting a long time—too long—to come on. A badly estimated child case which overruns prejudices the next, equally urgent, child case."

He said that all judges working in the family division had experienced delays. He said it caused "a real sense of frustration" when he saw the dismay on the faces of the litigants told that their cases

would come on months rather than weeks later.

"We are all constrained to work within the system, and one of the critical factors which ensures that the limited resources available are properly utilised is accurate estimation of the likely length of cases," Mr Justice Hall said.

He said that delays in getting cases to trial could tempt lawyers to underestimate the length of a case in the hope that a shorter case would get to court sooner. But he said: "That temptation should be resisted. The premise upon which it is based is fallacious. If a case is truly urgent, it will be heard, irrespective of its length."

The judge said that a serious underestimation of a case's length could result in it being removed from the list. "Cases that are adjourned or which overrun cause increasing congestion in the lists and prejudice following cases," he said. "They represent a problem that can only be resolved by the profession concentrating its mind on providing proper estimates of time."

He said that courts had that power to impose financial penalties in appropriate cases.

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## EC blocks ban on powerful motorbikes

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN STRASBOURG

MEPs last night effectively killed off a planned EC ban on high-performance motorbikes.

Flexing new powers invested in them by the Maastricht treaty, they voted by 300 votes to 24, with 13 abstentions, to "intend to reject" the ban. The plan will now go to a "conciliation committee", effectively throwing out the legislation.

The European Commission, the EC's unelected executive body, has been trying to ban the manufacture and import of motorbikes of more than 100 brake horsepower across Europe. High-speed motorbikes, it claims, are responsible for the majority of motorcycle accidents.

MEPs said this was unfounded and that a ban would harm European manufacturers' chances of getting back into a Japanese-dominated market.

Last night, the parliament rejected the plans for a second time, this time using new legislative powers under the Maastricht treaty. The proposals, had the support of all EC countries except Britain.

Peter Beazley, Tory MEP for Bedfordshire South, said: "Here we are with a great market which we are not supplying. It is jobs, money and technology, and we are just not getting into it."

Triumph Motorcycles Ltd, Britain's only volume manufacturer of motorbikes, said any ban would harm its sales and put an expansion scheme in doubt.

## Two men in court over fire death

Two men appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with the murder of an amateur footballer.

Ryan Keen, 20, who played for Nantwich Town, died in hospital in Manchester from burns after a fire at a house in Nantwich on Saturday. Police said the cause was inflammable liquid. Andrew Card, 32, a roofer of Crewe, and Barry Oliver, 30, a window cleaner of Nantwich, were remanded in custody.

## Rugby charge

William Hardy, 24, of Chiswick, west London, was remanded on bail accused of the manslaughter of Seamus Lavelle during a rugby match. Mr Lavelle, 30, of Colindale, north London, died after suffering brain injuries.

## Vicar accused

The Rev Franklin Huntress, 60, vicar of Long Bennington, Lincolnshire, has been suspended from his duties after being charged with indecently assaulting a 15-year-old boy.

## Guns stolen

Eighty-nine double-barrel shotguns were stolen from a lorry while the driver slept in a layby at Cassington, Oxfordshire. The guns were on the way to Leicestershire.

## Llama watch

A llama has been drafted in by a Kent farmer to protect his lambs from foxes. Jamie Freeman said he got the idea from American farmers who use llamas to ward off coyotes.

## Duke leads hunt for king's treasure

BY ANDREW COLLIER

ANOTHER search to find the submerged hulk of King Charles I's treasure barge begins in the Firth of Forth today. It could prove to be the most important underwater finding in British waters since the raising of the *Mary Rose* in 1982.

The Royal Navy minesweeper HMS Cottesmore, commanded by the Duke of York, is using its sonar to sweep the area to try to find the *Blessing of Burntisland*. The vessel sank in a storm in 1633 while carrying Charles's baggage across the forth during his first tour as King of Scotland.

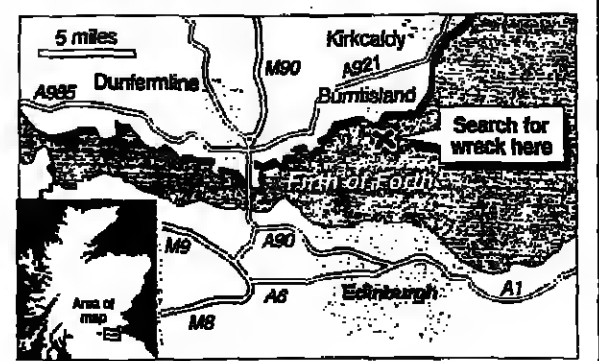
Detailed analysis last year located possible targets in 90ft of water off Burntisland, on the Fife side of the river.

The project team, led by Barry Clifford, an Ameri-

can underwater explorer, believes that rich pickings await them. The barge is understood to have been carrying a 280-piece silver dinner service commissioned by Henry VIII.

Searchers are optimistic that the mud-covered vessel may be intact and in a condition that will allow it to be raised whole from the seabed. Because much material from Stuart times was destroyed under Cromwell, any items discovered may help to fill gaps in historical knowledge.

Mr Clifford said yesterday: "We cannot guarantee to find the *Blessing of Burntisland* right away because there are so many wrecks. But by investigating each target and through a process of elimination, we are confident we will strike it lucky."



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# How leading light in the party was eclipsed by clash of ideals



Smith: will be relieved to lose thorn in side

Bryan Gould, who is to bow out of British politics at the age of 55, after nearly 20 years as an MP, suffered from being too clever, from being a New Zealander and from an inconsistent image.

Once seen as an arch moderniser, he recently hit out at John Smith for siding with the wealthy and abandoning the party's core supporters. Attempts to court both the left and the right have meant that neither side has ever fully accepted him.

While his colleagues respect and admire his intellect and enthusiasm, the man who admits to lunching with Michael Portillo has always been regarded as a bit of a maverick. "He ploughs his own furrow" one colleague said. His

antipathy to Mr Smith and his anti-European views, which led to his resignation from the shadow cabinet in 1992, also stymied any chance of gaining a foothold in the party's powerbase in recent years.

Many claim that the party has suffered as a consequence and that Mr Gould's energy, ideas and talents are badly missed. However, those close to the leadership are relieved that the one remaining thorn in Mr Smith's side will finally be removed.

Mr Gould arrived in Britain as a Rhodes scholar at Balliol, Oxford, aged 23. He joined the Labour Party two years later. After a spell in the Foreign Office he returned to academic life in Oxford as a law don before winning the Southampton Test seat in October 1974, but

*The Labour Party maverick, Bryan Gould, who is to quit politics, suffered from being too clever, too inconsistent and too foreign. Jill Sherman writes*

losing it in 1979. Mr Gould spent the next four years as a television reporter and presenter, before returning to Westminster as MP for Dagenham in 1983. After his success as campaign co-ordinator in the 1987 general election, he was tipped as a future party leader.

Then, the boyish, charming and ambitious politician was one of the leading lights in the party. Those working with him on the 1987 campaign were particularly impressed with the ease with which he took over running the show and his

professionalism. Although Labour lost the election he won widespread credit for his efforts, and was duly rewarded with big successes in the shadow Cabinet and national executive elections.

Shortly after the election Mr Gould was the first member of the shadow Cabinet to call for a fundamental review of some of Labour's key policies in an attempt to appeal to the real world rather than just party activists. However, just as his star was rising he made a couple of political blunders. At the

1987 party conference he was heckled after advocating share ownership. Then he made it clear that he coveted and deserved the job of shadow Chancellor. He was bitterly disappointed when Neil Kinnock gave the post to Mr Smith. Mr Gould was given trade and industry, but he sparred with Mr Smith on economic policy.

Two years later he was moved to the less sensitive shadow environment post, where he clashed with Mr Kinnock over Labour's alternative to the poll tax.

His political star was already on the wane when Labour was defeated in the 1992 general election. Mr Gould had nothing to lose when he decided to challenge Mr Smith for the Labour leadership and to run against Margaret Beckett as his

deputy. His odds against beating Mrs Beckett lengthened after he criticised Mr Smith's shadow Budget during the campaign.

The thorn was truly embedded in Mr Smith's side. Mr Gould continued to speak out against Maastricht and Labour's economic policy. After a humiliating defeat in the leadership elections he was appointed shadow heritage secretary. Two months later he resigned at the party conference, dismissing the shadow cabinet as "a gag and straitjacket that suppressed real debate". Since then he has concentrated on drawing up an alternative economic policy, based on higher taxes and higher spending. Yesterday, however, he conceded that Mr Smith would never sign up to his ideas.

## Labour puts Commons business in danger

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S guerrilla tactics yesterday brought the work of a select committee to a halt, and Opposition leaders threatened to "shut down the Commons within days" by stopping any legislation passing through Parliament.

Senior backbenchers will try today to defuse the dispute after relations between the two main parties plunged to new depths. Dr Keith Hampton, a Tory member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee, tabled a motion of no-confidence in Richard Caborn, the committee's Labour chairman. Dr Hampton retaliated against Labour's decision to block the committee's planned visit to South Africa this month, the latest in a series of moves aimed at disrupting Commons business.

The Tory-dominated committee was warned last night that, if the motion was carried next week, Labour's campaign of non-co-operation would be intensified rapidly to bring Commons business to a halt. Senior Labour members said the party would withdraw MPs from all committees, effectively halting the behind-the-scenes work of Parliament and slowing down legislation, such as the Criminal Justice Bill, currently being discussed by standing committees.

Today the all-party Commons Liaison Committee, comprising the chairmen of all the select committees and other senior MPs, will hear Mr Caborn's account of yesterday's events and attempt to avert a crisis.

However, several Tory committee chairmen have voiced their annoyance at Labour's recent tactic of blocking foreign visits by refusing to allow its MPs to miss Commons business.

Sir Anthony Grant, a Tory member of the Trade and Industry Committee, accused Labour of "gross interference" with the work of select committees. "It is not for Labour to decide where we should and should not go when we are trying to investigate an issue in as much detail as possible." The committee, which is

examining trade links with southern Africa, has now deferred the planned publishing date of its report, which was due to be out before the South African elections in April.

Labour's strategy of non-co-operation strategy, aimed at forcing Conservatives to remain at the Commons for late-night votes by withdrawing the "pairing" agreement, began in December in protest at the Government's decision to cut short debate on measures contained in the Budget.

More divisions between backbenchers will emerge next month when the first detailed enquiry for nearly 20 years into the funding of political parties faces acrimonious collapse. A deep split between Tory and Labour MPs investigating party funding has dashed Tory hopes that the long-awaited cross-party Commons report might reach uncontroversial conclusions.

After months of deliberation, members of the Home Affairs Select Committee have conceded that hopes of producing a unanimous report at the end of March are now futile. The Tory-dominated committee, which had been due to report last year, is now likely to be split between a majority report agreed by Conservative members and a minority set of conclusions published by Opposition MPs.

Such a move will draw Conservatives into renewed controversy over the number of donations paid by contributors living overseas and the lack of information provided about some of the party's large donors. The Government will face renewed calls from Labour to ban overseas donations to parties, introduce share-holders' ballots before companies make donations and to set up a national regulatory system controlling funding.

### In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office: Prime Minister. Opposition debate on Child Support Agency. Lords (3): Local Government (Wales) Bill, report. River Calder (Weiback Site) Bill, 3rd reading.

## Departing Gould leads from the sidelines

Bryan Gould has set an example which other MPs should follow. The puzzled reaction yesterday of other MPs to his decision to leave the Commons at the age of 55 for a rewarding job as a university vice-chancellor in his native New Zealand, shows what is wrong now. Most politicians cannot understand why anyone should voluntarily give up life at Westminster.

But then Mr Gould has never been a conventional career politician. He had a life before politics, as a diplomat and an Oxford law don. He has always had a detached attitude, in part because he is an outsider to British politics. After losing Southampton Test in 1979, he was less distraught than most other former MPs are on defeat, even though he was keen to get back to the Commons. After returning, for Dagenham, in 1983, he was soon a success on the frontbench and, as campaigns co-ordinator during the 1987 election, he personified the more youthful, outward-looking image which Labour needed.

He appeared to be the archetypal moderniser before his time. But that was always misleading since his views, particularly his opposition to closer British involvement in the European Community (now Union) and to anything smacking of monetarism, put him increasingly at odds with the leadership. MPs questioned his judgment.

This conflict doomed his campaign for the Labour leadership in 1992. He completed the process of self-destruction when he resigned from the shadow Cabinet over Europe in September 1992. Since then he has become more isolated. He spoke against the Maastricht Treaty and founded the Full Employment Forum to advocate a Keynesian alternative to the mainstream Labour approach. But he was on the outside.

Mr Gould summed up his predicament yesterday: "Rather than remain as a carping critic lamenting on the sidelines things I cannot change, I would rather do something constructive with my life." This view was dismissed by John Prescott as "bad political judgment". But that underlines the blinkered Westminster viewpoint. Rather than hang around, with little prospect of office, and probably become embittered, Mr Gould has sensibly decided to seek a fulfilling life elsewhere. Prominent Labour politicians have from time to time taken up other jobs in mid-career. Alf Roberts became chairman of the National Coal Board in 1961 and Eric Varley quit the Commons for business in 1984. On the Tory side, Sir Leon Brittan has accomplished much more



Bryan Gould, the Labour MP, turning his back on Westminster yesterday

as a European Commissioner than he would have done in the Commons. But they are exceptions. Parliament would benefit from more politicians with a similar approach. Too many MPs remain in the Commons until their late 60s or 70s, contributing little. But as I argued in my recent book *Honest Opportunism: the rise of the career politician*, that is symptomatic of the rise of a new breed of full-time politicians, committed from their early 20s, if not earlier. An increasing number of MPs have never done "proper" jobs outside of politics. Nearly a third of the MPs first elected

in 1992 had previously been special advisers to ministers, on the staff of parties, trade unions, full-time councillors or consultants. Having worked so hard to get selected as candidates and then elected as MPs, they want to stay in the Commons for as long as possible. Of the 75 MPs who left the Commons at their own wish at the last election, just nine were as young as Mr Gould now is. Instead of plying Mr Gould, as some MPs were doing yesterday, they should envy him.

PETER RIDDELL

Leading article, page 17

## High-flyer who gave hope to citizens

By EDWARD GORMAN

AT TIMES the citizens of Dagenham, Bryan Gould's northeast London constituency since 1983, acknowledge that they have been frankly confused by their dynamic MP.

Many of his constituents admitted to being only vaguely aware of his views, say on Europe, on the way the Labour Party ought to be heading, the effectiveness of the current leadership, or the economy.

But even among those who have never voted for him in the somewhat faded home of Ford cars, there was only praise yesterday for a constituency MP regarded as hard-working and effective. Dagenham, as much as anywhere in Britain, has needed a high-profile operator and Mr Gould has fitted the bill. As Bill Little, secretary of the local Labour Party and Mr Gould's agent at the last general election, put it: "Dagenham amounts to little more than one large housing estate" which was originally built as part of slum clearance in the 1920s and then added to as the huge Ford plant grew to employ more than 25,000 people.

These days the Ford operation has shrunk dramatically, with fewer than 10,000 workers knocking out Fiesta cars on round-the-clock shifts. Dagenham now has unemployment running at 2 per cent above the national average. At the very least Mr Gould has helped to stem the decline, fighting to keep the jobs at Ford and elsewhere and campaigning hard but unsuccessfully, for extra EC development funding for the area.

"I think he's raised the profile of Dagenham — it was never a very well known area. It is partly because he has become well known himself," reflected Mr Little. "I think Bryan felt comfortable with people because his sort of traditional Labour values struck a chord with skilled and semi-skilled workers here."

Some see his departure as a great loss not only for Dagenham. "The majority of people in our office argue that he would have made an excellent Prime Minister eventually," said one local businesswoman, who did not wish to be named. "Certainly he would have made a better Leader of the Labour Party than the one we have at the moment."

## Whitehall wasted cash meant for jobless

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO £48 million intended for helping the unemployed was wasted through Civil Service inefficiency, MPs reported yesterday.

Mistakes, failures of financial management and inadequate staffing led to an Employment Department computer system being abandoned. Even after problems had been found in the system, managers failed to assess the dangers of extending "an already high-risk project", says a report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee.

The MPs' criticisms will add to pressure on ministers to tighten up on waste and mismanagement in the public sector. Yesterday's comments follow a report by the committee detailing 21 cases of "serious failures" in government departments and public bodies in recent years.

The Field computer system was set up in 1988 to help local and regional offices to implement training and enterprise programmes but was abandoned last year after £48 million had been spent. According to the report, "at least a significant part of the expenditure of £48 million by the department on this project has been wasted. This was money that could have been spent on providing training for unemployed people."

The report says that most Training and Enterprise Councils were using the system partially or not at all by 1992. "We consider this a very inadequate outcome to the investment of £48 million."

A "haphazard" system of appointing about 200 outside consultants meant that consultancy costs, originally estimated at £1.3 million, soared to £11 million. The use of so many consultancies cast doubt on the department's control of the outside firms "as well as the accuracy of their financial planning for the project."

After detailing a host of criticisms, the MPs concluded that "we do not share the department's view that the system can be regarded as any sort of success, even a partial one. In our view, with so few clear benefits, this expenditure does not represent value for money for the taxpayer."

The MPs said that staff responsible for the project "did not possess the necessary background and experience."

## Jet breaks the language barrier

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE two-year delay and rising cost of the four-nation Eurofighter aircraft was blamed yesterday on the workshare arrangement under which each country had to play a part in developing every piece of equipment.

MPs on the Commons Defence Committee were told that even the aircraft's two wings had to be built in four countries: Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain.

The MPs heard that Britain's share of the cost of developing the Eurofighter had increased by £450 million to £3.4 billion.

The prototype Eurofighter is due to have its inaugural flight in April, two years late.

The main cause of the delay was the flight control system, the MPs were told. The difficulties were not helped by the fact that the software for the system was developed by all four partners, speaking different languages.

Mr Gordon said the time-wasting involved in shipping components around from country to country was one of the lessons learnt from the Eurofighter programme.

Britain had also hoped to use the management agency, set up to run the three-nation Tornado programme, for the Eurofighter project. However, Spain, which had not been part of the Tornado programme, rejected the proposal, so a separate management agency had to be formed.

Production of the Eurofighter which will replace the RAF's Jaguar and Tornado F3 squadrons, is due to begin next year, after Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, and his counterparts from Germany, Spain and Italy sign a new memorandum of understanding. The estimated total development and production cost for the four countries is currently £32 billion.

The RAF requirement was for 250 aircraft but this could increase if it took over other roles. This was under review, the MPs heard.

## Power-hungry MEPs rewrite the rule-book

THE European parliament, swelled by its new legislative powers under the Maastricht Treaty, has had a rush of blood to the head (James Landale writes).

Not content with its new right to "co-decision making" with the 12 member state governments to shape much European Union law, it chose to spend several hours yesterday debating nothing less vital than a whole new EU constitution, which would increase its influence tenfold.

No matter that the European elections are only a few months away, yesterday Europe's democratic representatives felt that there was no time like the present to consid-

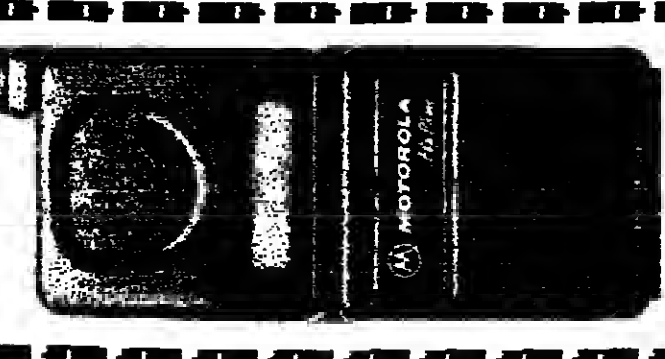
er how to overturn the Maastricht Treaty. "It would be revolutionary," one official said.

The draft constitution called for the parliament to have the power to define the "general political guidelines of the Union"; to approve laws jointly with the Council of EC ministers; to elect the European Commission president; and to have the right to hold a vote of confidence in the Commission as a whole.

The draft constitution, proposed by Fernand Herman, a Belgian Christian Democrat MEP, will be put forward for consideration at an inter-governmental conference on institutional reforms in 1996.



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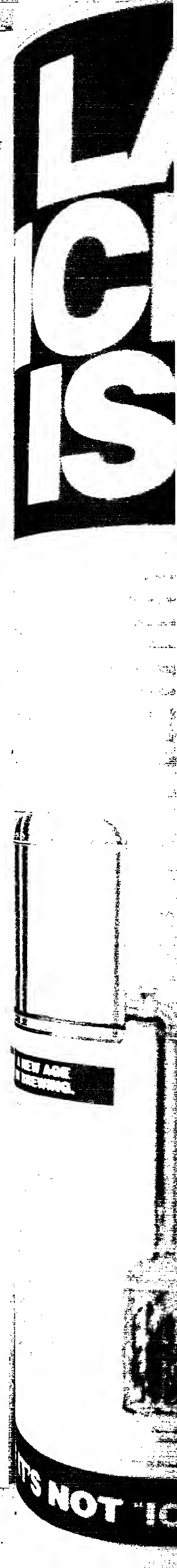
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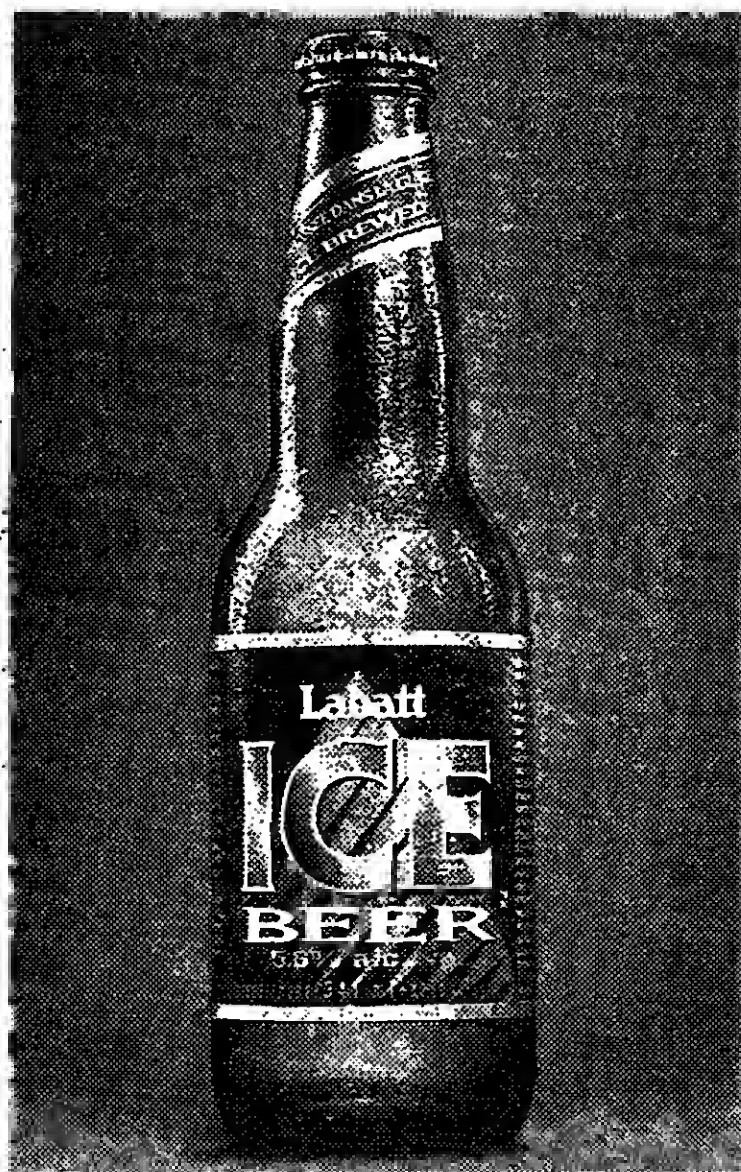


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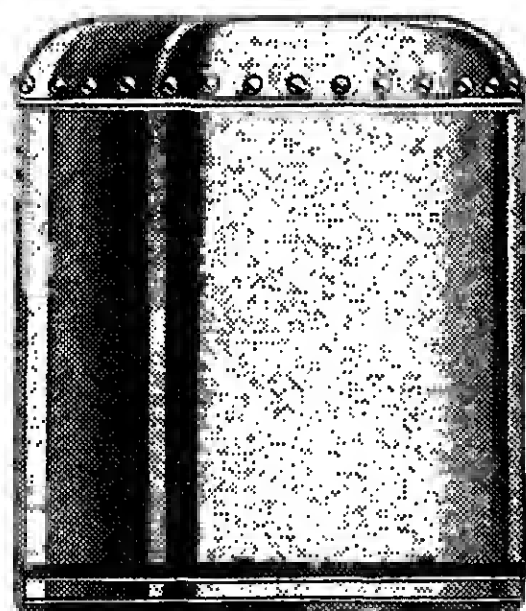
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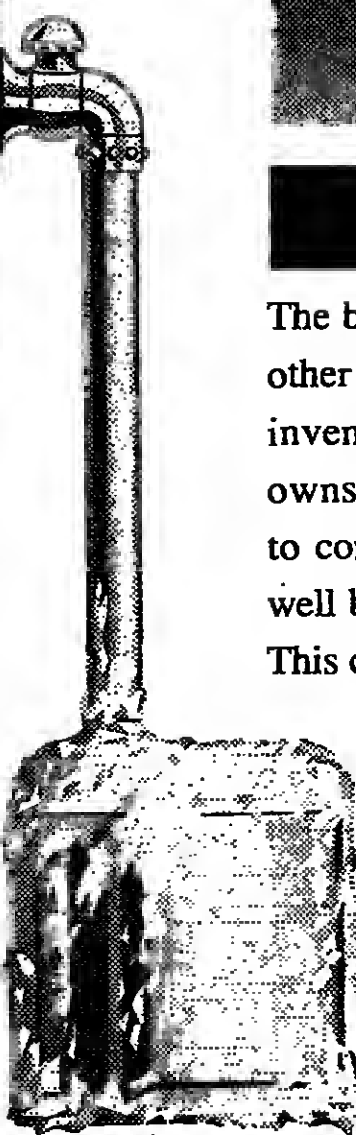


Brew Tank.

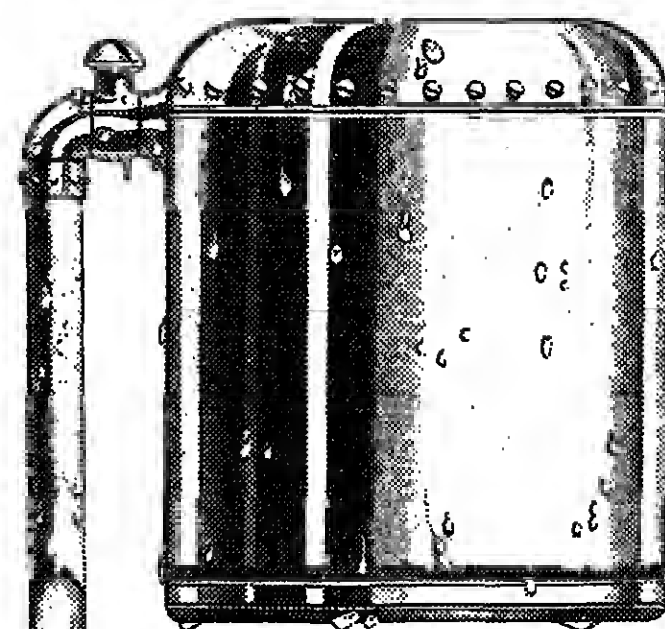
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## Offensive in southern Sudan

## Khartoum bombers hit divided rebels

FROM DAVID CHAZAN IN PAGERI, SUDAN

THE battered Jeep, flagged down by Sudanese aid workers terrified by the all-too-familiar rumble of Soviet-built bombers in the cloudless sky, screeched to a halt under an acacia tree.

"Get out and lie flat. Quick, that's an Anzovov up there," the aid workers shouted to the vehicle's load of reporters, who had only just set out from Nimule on the Ugandan border to drive into rebel-held southern Sudan. As the journalists dived for cover, four thunderous explosions shattered the midday calm as the plane attacked Pageri, a dusty village of 10,000 people in the northeast of Nimule.

Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist military government denies sending warplanes and tens of thousands of troops against the black, mainly Christian south. Diplomats and relief workers, however, said the massive onslaught, which is driving 140,000 civil-

ians towards Uganda, could be a final push to crush the southern rebellion that is draining Khartoum's coffers.

The palls of black smoke rising from Pageri, controlled by the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has no aircraft, left little doubt about the government's relentless bombing campaign. Bullets crackled as they exploded in the blazing ruins of a building that apparently housed a rebel arsenal. But Mario Muor, a former SPLA officer now heading the movement's relief wing, said the building was in fact a military police post.

As flames engulfed beehive thatched huts, a woman with her toes and left kneecap blown off was carried out of a house, naked except for a cloth around her waist. She was driven to a makeshift hospital at a camp sheltering 21,000 homeless people in nearby Aswa, where two more bombs fell harmlessly.

The government appears to have taken advantage of an internal war within the SPLA to sweep south. Months after the 1991 split divided the rebel movement, Khartoum recovered most southern towns and the current offensive could herald the coup de grace.

Asked whether the SPLA could hold back the army's two-prong advance towards Nimule, which seems to be aimed at cutting rebel supply lines from Uganda, Mr Muor said: "It's touch and go. Most of our forces are pinned down defending us from Riek." He was referring to the forces of Riek Mashaar, head of the breakaway SPLA faction.

Twelve relief agencies yesterday complained that the fighting was disrupting their efforts to feed and care for about two million people, half the population of the south, a vast drought-stricken and undeveloped region of swamps and savannah that is twice the size of France.



Marked man: Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, with lipstick on his cheek, handing flowers to members of the Stuttgart dancing guard who were among carnival performers visiting the Bonn chancellery yesterday

## Vesuvius threatens a million

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN ERUPTION of Vesuvius could engulf a million people within 15 minutes, causing disaster on an unprecedented scale, three scientists have calculated.

An area four miles in radius around the summit of the volcano would be wiped out at horrifying speed. They call for effective evacuation plans, new roads, and the depopulation of the area to diminish the risks. Better methods of forecasting eruptions are also needed.

Vesuvius, dormant since 1944, overlooks Naples. In AD 79 the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum were destroyed by an eruption.

Writing in *Nature*, Dr Flavio Dobran of New York University and Italian colleagues used data from past eruptions to create a computer model. Vesuvius has long been silent but no volcano is ever extinct, he contends.

## White right faces election deadline

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

TALKS between the South African government, the African National Congress and the right-wing Freedom Alliance broke up without agreement yesterday. No plans were made to resume negotiations.

Although deadlines have been wonderfully flexible in the past, the three groups face a statutory deadline at the end of this week when parties, according to the new election law, must register their intention to contest the April election. The ANC, for example, announced that Nelson Mandela, the president, would register formally today.

If the members of the Freedom Alliance do not enter, their only real alternative is to take up resistance, either passive or armed, to enforce their views. Rowan Cronje, a minister in the government of the nominally independent black homeland of Bophuthatswana, who acts as chairman of the alliance, metaphorically threw his hands in the air after the latest talks, saying that unless the ANC was prepared to guarantee provincial consti-

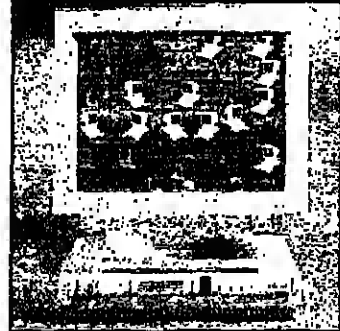
tutions against change there was no sense in carrying on negotiating about provincial powers.

"We are not slamming the door," Mr Cronje said, "but unless we can resolve this we cannot see a way forward."

General Constand Viljoen, the leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront, which is a member of the alliance, insisted yesterday that negotiation was still the only way to settle the issue of self-determination. He suggested that it was still possible that the Freedom Alliance, which also includes the governments of Bophuthatswana and KwaZulu, could register for the elections, but it was unlikely to participate unless its constitutional demands were met.

Mr Mandela told the National Union of Mineworkers in Pretoria that the ANC rejected the demand by rightwingers for an Afrikaner *volkstaat* and would never grant it. "But we are prepared to sit down and discuss with the Afrikaner Volksfront how we can accommodate their fears."

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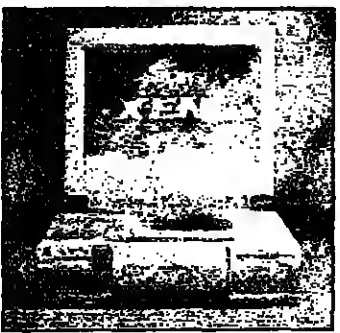


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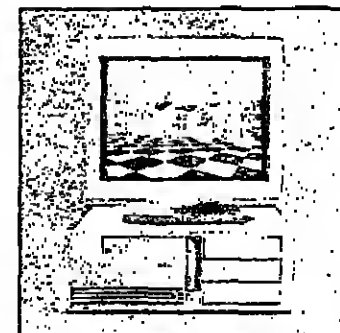


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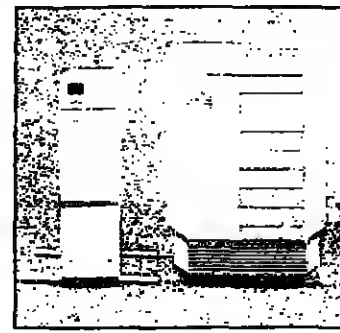


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# Air strikes will silence Serb artillery besieging Sarajevo if warnings go unheeded

## Ultimatum forces West into making hard choices

Russian opposition to air strikes is seen in London as the single greatest threat to Nato's strategy. John Major's visit to Moscow next week is now seen as crucial

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL BINYON

NATO's 16 ambassadors gathered yesterday to wrestle with a question that some of them must have hoped had disappeared with the end of the Cold War nuclear confrontation: how to fashion a credible threat from a deterrent you do not want to use. And not the least of NATO's worries is Russia's possible reaction to air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs.

As yesterday's Nato meeting absorbed the news of the latest Sarajevo ceasefire and pull-back agreement, the ambassadors must have wondered if they had achieved what once appeared impossible, if the mere organisation of this week's high-profile meetings

### NATO AND RUSSIA

in Brussels to debate air strikes against the Serb gun emplacements battering Sarajevo had helped clinch a deal that promises to end the bombardment of the city.

Although, in the off-repeated phrase of Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, the "balance has shifted" towards Nato using air strikes to ease the siege of Sarajevo, the alliance's ambassadors yesterday faced now familiar dilemmas without enthusiasm. As a result, John Major's visit to Moscow next week is now perceived as crucial in winning Kremlin support.

The Prime Minister and Mr Hurd will try to assess whether Russian opposition to air action marks a decisive break

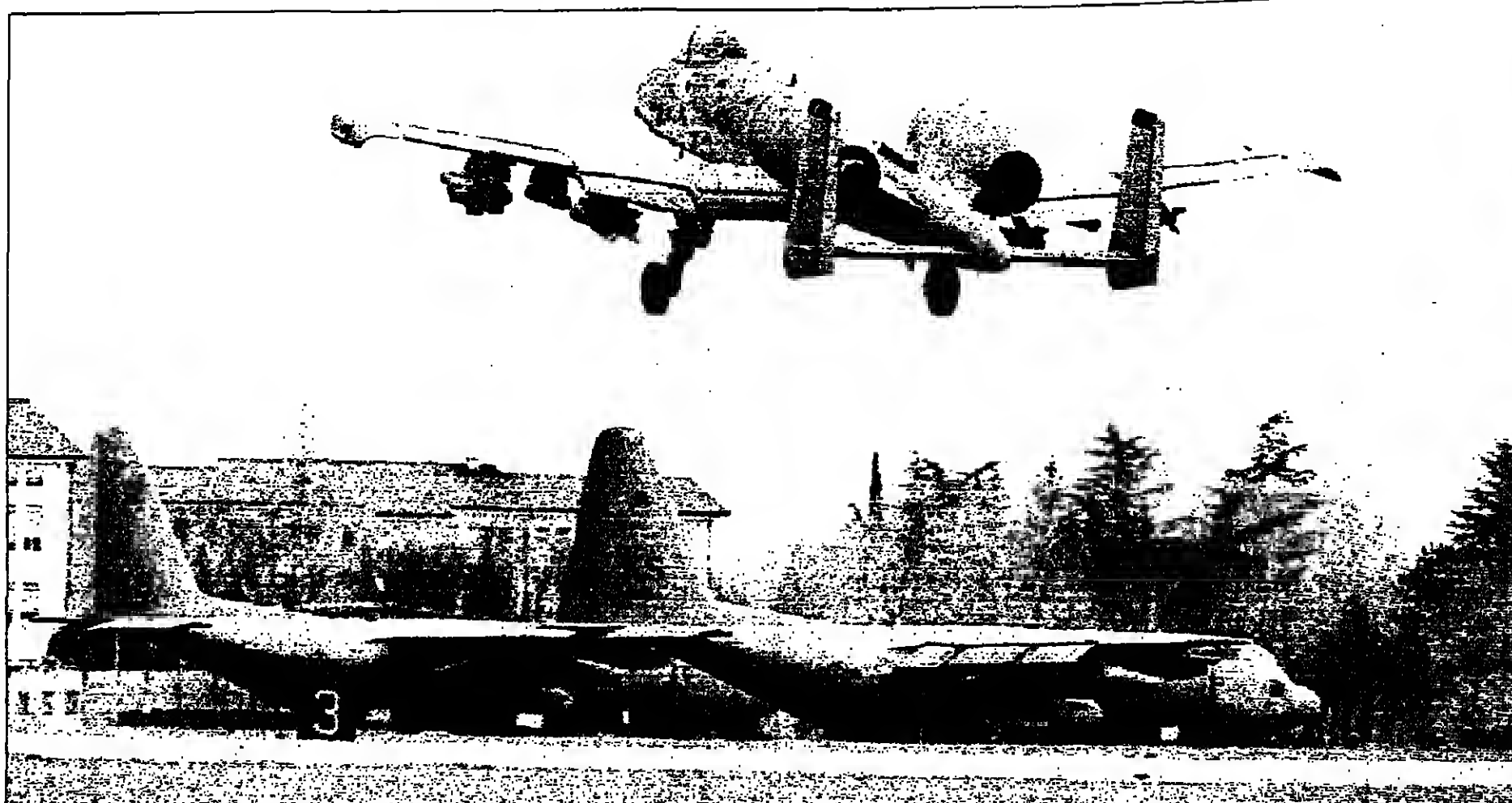
changed for months, but a series of ineffectual meetings and last Saturday's marketplace massacre in Sarajevo forced the alliance to rethink its answers. Until that single mortar round killed 68 people, ministers at meetings of Nato, the United Nations and the European Union had talked much about using air strikes but had been relieved to find that UN headquarters in New York did not want them.

As the EU grandly invited Nato and the UN to liberate Sarajevo on Monday in the wake of a letter from Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, Nato's worried officials realised that another windy communiqué promising action at some unspecified future date would not do. "I really hope we are not stopped dead in the water once again," one Nato diplomat said before yesterday's meeting. "That would be an awful outcome."

Despite this, not one Nato government shows any sign of readiness to do anything more than fly a few sorties over Sarajevo. Even without taking into account the possible Russian reaction, opposition to deeper military engagement runs as deep as ever.

Implacable Russian opposition to air strikes is seen in London as the single greatest threat to Nato's strategy. As a result, John Major's visit to Moscow next week is now perceived as crucial in winning Kremlin support.

The Prime Minister and Mr Hurd will try to assess whether Russian opposition to air action marks a decisive break



An American A10 Thunderbolt aircraft taking off from an air base at Aviano, Italy to take part in Nato's Operation Deny Flight mission over Bosnia-Herzegovina

with previous Kremlin co-operation over policy in former Yugoslavia or is intended merely to demonstrate pro-Serb solidarity to assuage angry Russian nationalists.

"It could be a very important time to be in Moscow," a Whitehall official said. He admitted that Britain had set aside its own earlier opposition to air strikes because the Government believed the political balance had changed after the attack on the Sarajevo market.

"We judge that what is being proposed will, on balance, do more good than harm," he said.

The drawbacks and military doubts still remained valid, however, and British officials were adamant that the deployment of extra British ground troops was "not on". There was also a real risk that the threat of action against the Serbs would remove the pressure on the Bosnian Muslims to negotiate in Geneva. The

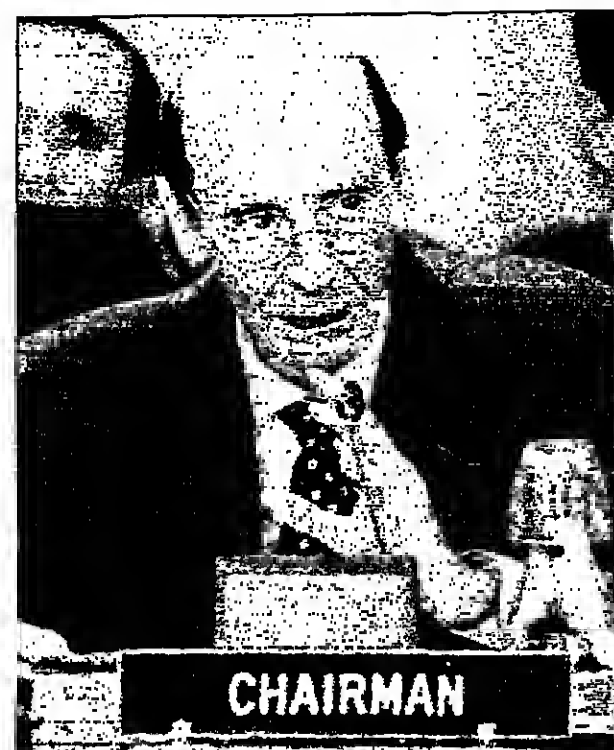
officials emphasised that the West did not propose to lift the siege of Sarajevo. The Serbs were being asked only to withdraw their heavy guns, not to remove their infantry, and the West had no intention at this stage of forcing them to allow free access in and out of the besieged capital.

The mood in the Foreign Office was said yesterday to be "sombre". Mr Hurd with regret cancelled his proposed visit to South Africa, which

was to have begun today, because of the crisis.

The lurch towards air strikes has been led by a French government that has seen 21 of its soldiers killed in Bosnia and which, having the largest contingent of troops there, is under fierce domestic pressure either to act against the Serbs or pull out. Yesterday's meeting divided into two camps over a joint French and American paper proposing that Nato set a seven or ten-day deadline by which all artillery had either to be withdrawn or under UN control. British officials, sounding doubtful about such a categorical threat on Monday were by Tuesday supporting the deadline. But several ambassadors had reservations. Greece, sympathetic to Serbia, repeated its objections to military intervention but said it would not block agreement if Nato planes did not fly from Greek territory.

Nato ultimatum, page 1  
Peter Brooke, page 16  
Leading article  
and Letters, page 17



Manfred Wörner, the Secretary-General of Nato, opening alliance talks in Brussels yesterday

## Mood darkens in Belgrade

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

AS NATO discussed air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs the mood in Belgrade was one of confusion and mixed emotions.

Above all the tone was set by a two-hour special television programme shown on Tuesday night with a live link-up to the Bosnian Serb capital of Pale. Yugoslav Army and Bosnian Serb leaders vied with one another to prove that

the shell fired on a market in Sarajevo on Saturday had not been launched by the Serbs and that an international "lynch mob" was in preparation.

Ballistics experts told viewers that one shell could never have killed so many people and that even if it had it could not have been fired from a Serb mortar. In fact, they claimed, the Muslims had

pulled off a fendish clever trick in Merkale market involving life-size dolls.

Stevica Vukic, 26, a kindergarten teacher, was not sure whether to believe the air strikes would really come. "I certainly don't believe what I see on television but I think the air strikes will come. And one thing is for certain, a lot of innocent people will get killed," she said.

## Relief workers fear for future of their mission

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of punitive air strikes against Bosnian Serbs sends shudders through an already battered army of aid workers. They worry about the future of their almost impossible mission to feed and tend the sick and hungry, and about their own safety.

"I have seen people gather wheat flour from airdrops with spoons from the mud," a United Nations aid official said after visiting the besieged Bosnian enclave of Gorazde. British aid driver Paul Goodall was shot dead two weeks ago today, when he and two colleagues were hijacked by suspected Muslims near Zenica in central Bosnia. In the past five months, three United Nations aid workers have been murdered in the same area.

It is surprising that the toll has not been higher as scores of UN and other helpers across the republic are daily harassed, robbed, shelled and shot at by Serbs, Croats and

Muslims. The aid workers fear that air strikes could lead to revenge attacks on them and the UN peacekeeping troops who try to protect them.

While talk of air strikes has focused this week on Sarajevo, those most desperately hungry are stranded in places such as Mostar — besieged by Croats — Gorazde and Maglaj. But even if air strikes are carried out, and even if

### AID CONVOYS

peacekeeping troops are withdrawn, the aid convoys will continue to struggle through where they can. The problem will be that there would probably be fewer accessible places for them to go.

Despite almost overwhelming difficulties, the UN delivered a record 33,162 tons of food, clothing, medicines and other supplies in Bosnia in January. This compares with about 17,000 tons the same

time last year, but still falls far short of the estimated 45,000 tons needed in the republic last month.

Paradoxically, the aid delivered in January would have more than met demand last year, but since then the number of people in need has leaped. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has the supplies, but cannot get them through to many besieged towns and villages.

The majority of aid is delivered by road — the most dangerous but most effective way. Air drops are periodically carried out in the more isolated and besieged regions, such as Mostar, Tuzla and Maglaj, but these are much more hit-and-miss, with a higher risk of supplies falling into the wrong hands.

Ron Redman, spokesman for the UNHCR, said in Geneva yesterday: "Air drops are organised from air bases in Germany and we would expect them to continue."

## Enigmatic general pulls off tough deal

MAN IN THE NEWS

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

LIEUTENANT General Sir Michael Rose, who took over as commander of the 13,000 United Nations troops in Bosnia only three weeks ago, is already being hailed as the hero of the hour.

While he would be the first to reject any kudos for achieving what could be one of the most positive developments in the 22-month civil war, there is no doubt that his tough approach has played a valuable role.

Described as a very private man, General Rose, 54, is an enigma even to colleagues who have worked closely with him; they say they never know what he is thinking. His manner and his way of conducting business has as much to do with his personality as his army background.

When a young army officer applies to join the Special Air Service, he is not only tested for his physical and mental abilities but must also undergo psychological tests to be accepted into the elite unit. This is to ensure that he will not break down under extreme conditions. During his career with the SAS, and now in Bosnia, General Rose has demonstrated that he is capable of overcoming every kind of challenge, however impossible it may seem.

Educated at Oxford University and the Sorbonne, he is regarded as one of the most intelligent and capable officers of his generation.

After commanding 22 SAS in the Falklands War, General Rose moved on from his favourite regiment following a term as Director Special Forces, in charge of both the SAS and the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service.

If the ceasefire deal with the Serbs succeeds and the heavy guns are withdrawn from around the city, he could win the accolade of being the saviour of Sarajevo, a label one of his predecessors, General Philippe Morillon, tried so hard to win.

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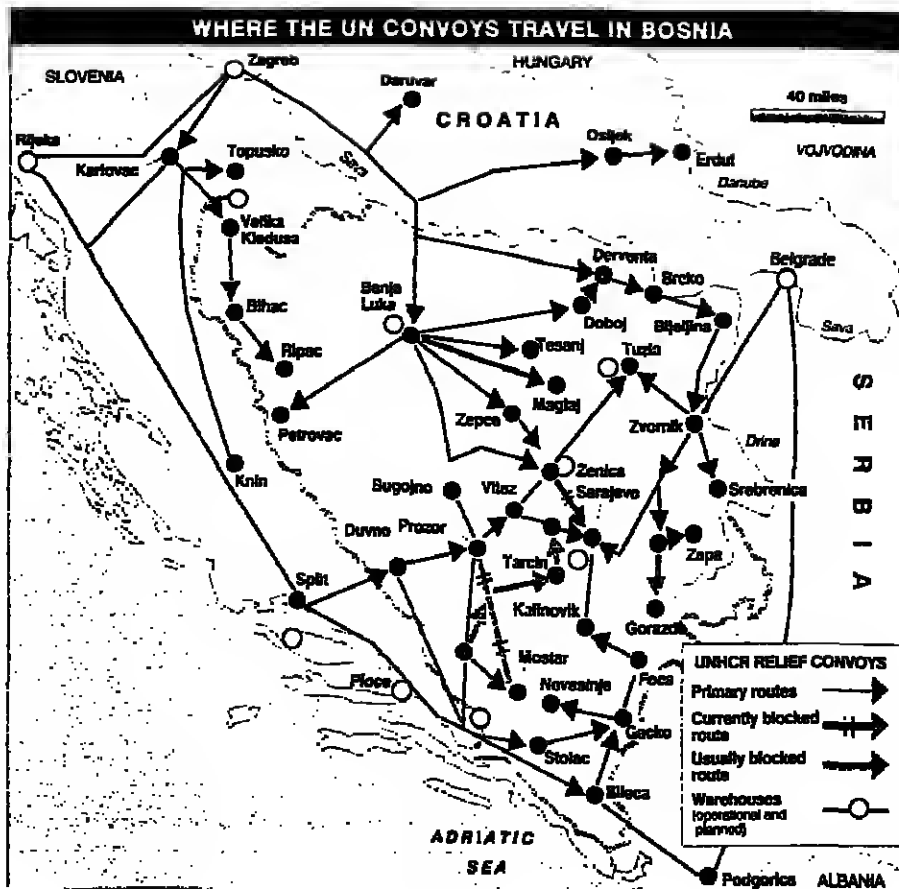
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# Ripples of Whitewater engulf First Lady's law firm



Hillary Clinton: former firm denies shredding

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY Clinton's former law firm yesterday strongly denied reports that it had shredded documents about the President's and Mrs Clinton's investment in the Whitewater land development firm in Arkansas, which stands at the centre of a rumbling political scandal.

The allegations came in a report by *The Washington Times*, a conservative paper opposed to President Clinton and his Administration, which has displayed an uncharacteristic investigative zeal in its coverage of the affair. The allegations it makes are among the most damaging so far, because they hint at the existence of documents that could have proved that money was diverted from an Arkansas savings bank via

Whitewater to finance then Governor Clinton's election campaigns. If true, these transactions could have involved public funds, since the savings bank went bankrupt and its depositors were bailed out at a cost to the taxpayers of between \$50 million (£33.5 million) and \$60 million.

The newspaper sourced its report on an unnamed employee in the Rose firm, who was quoted as saying: "There's absolutely no doubt that the records destroyed last Thursday were those the firm had on Whitewater. There were a lot of papers and the process took quite a long time. A bunch of stuff was there to be read, and it was felt that this could be very bad."

Ronald Clark, managing partner of Rose, rejected the allegations as "absolutely false". He said: "To my knowledge we have no documents in the firm's posses-

**An employee in Hillary Clinton's former law firm has alleged its Whitewater records have been destroyed. With so many missing papers, claims of misuse of public funds may be hard to settle**

sion related to Whitewater, and if we do we are accumulating them in a single location awaiting the appropriate time that they will be examined."

The Clintons have rejected all allegations, insisting that Whitewater was merely a bad property investment that lost them close to \$70,000. Given that the documents have indeed gone missing, it appears increasingly difficult to prove or disprove many of the allegations.

The issue is under investigation by a team headed by Robert Fiske, who was appointed last month as the special counsel to look into the Whitewater affair and its wider ramifications. Mr Fiske is almost certain to investigate the claims by *The Washington Times* as part of his enquiry. A spokesman for Rose said yesterday that the law firm had not yet been contacted by Mr Fiske.

With growing reports of missing documents, there is a possibility that the Whitewater investigation will end with inconclusive results, similar to the audit of Mr Clinton's Whitewater accounts during the

1992 presidential elections. Even if documents were shredded, this is not likely to constitute a breach of state or federal laws, although given the increased public interest in Whitewater such action would be unusual, if not unethical, conduct by a law firm.

Another partner in the law firm was Vincent Foster, the former White House deputy counsel who committed suicide last July. Foster's name has also been linked to the Whitewater affair because he is thought to have worked on the Clintons' Whitewater files shortly before his death. Recently several reports have cast doubt on the official version of the circumstances surrounding Foster's death in a secluded park about ten miles from central Washington.

Choice approved: President Clinton's nomination of Strobe Talbott to be Deputy Secretary of

State was approved by the Senate foreign relations committee yesterday. Those senators who were present approved the nomination by 17 votes to one. Senator Jesse Helms, a North Carolina Republican who voted against Mr Talbott, sought to delay Senate confirmation for two weeks, but this was rejected on a 10 to 9 vote. The full Senate vote on Talbott's confirmation was expected to follow soon. The committee vote could change because other committee members are allowed to add their voices later.

Mr Helms challenged Mr Talbott, a former senior *Time* magazine writer, at a confirmation hearing on Tuesday for saying in a 1981 essay that Israel had become a liability to US security interests. Mr Talbott said his views had changed, but that the essay was critical of Likud government policies, not Israel. (Reuters)

## Cairo peace talks intensify as date for accord nears

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

MARATHON talks aimed at achieving a partial agreement on obstacles to Palestinian self rule in Israeli-occupied Jericho and Gaza intensified here yesterday.

With the April 13 deadline for the withdrawal of Israeli troops just over two months away, the negotiating pace was stepped up. By last night, Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and Shimon Peres, Israel's Foreign Minister, had met six times in 48 hours.

"We are working paragraph by paragraph, word by word," said Yuri Savir, head of the Israeli team. Mr Savir was involved in the secret talks in Norway which laid the basis for the peace pact, the broad details of which were signed in Washington last September. Much of the delay in implementing the accord has been blamed on the vagueness of that original document, which was said by one American commentator to be "long on flourish and short on precision".

PLO officials and some left-wing Israeli politicians have also blamed differences between Mr Peres and his long-time rival, Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, for failure to secure agreement on the future conduct of security in those areas to be evacuated. Initial expectations aroused in Davos, Switzerland nearly two weeks ago that the talks in Cairo might reach a final agreement were dashed by Mr Rabin on Tuesday. He is known to be unwilling to offend Israeli army chiefs who

are worried that national security may be threatened by giving in to PLO demands. Many Israelis are convinced that in the long run, Mr Arafat will be forced to make further concessions.

"Even if we agree on the subjects we are discussing, and even if we sign on them, it is still not the signing of the agreement because we must discuss additional matters," Mr Rabin said.

The snail's pace of negotiations and the lack of any marked changes on the



ground in Jericho or the squalid refugee camps of the Gaza Strip, has helped dissipate much of the initial euphoria which surrounded the original White House signing ceremony on September 13. Under the agreement, Israeli troops should have started withdrawing on December 13. The main disputes which have prevented this are focused on the size of the Jericho area to be handed over, the means of security for the 4,000 Jewish settlers who will stay on in Gaza and, most importantly,

procedures at the borders of the self-rule areas leading to Jordan and Egypt.

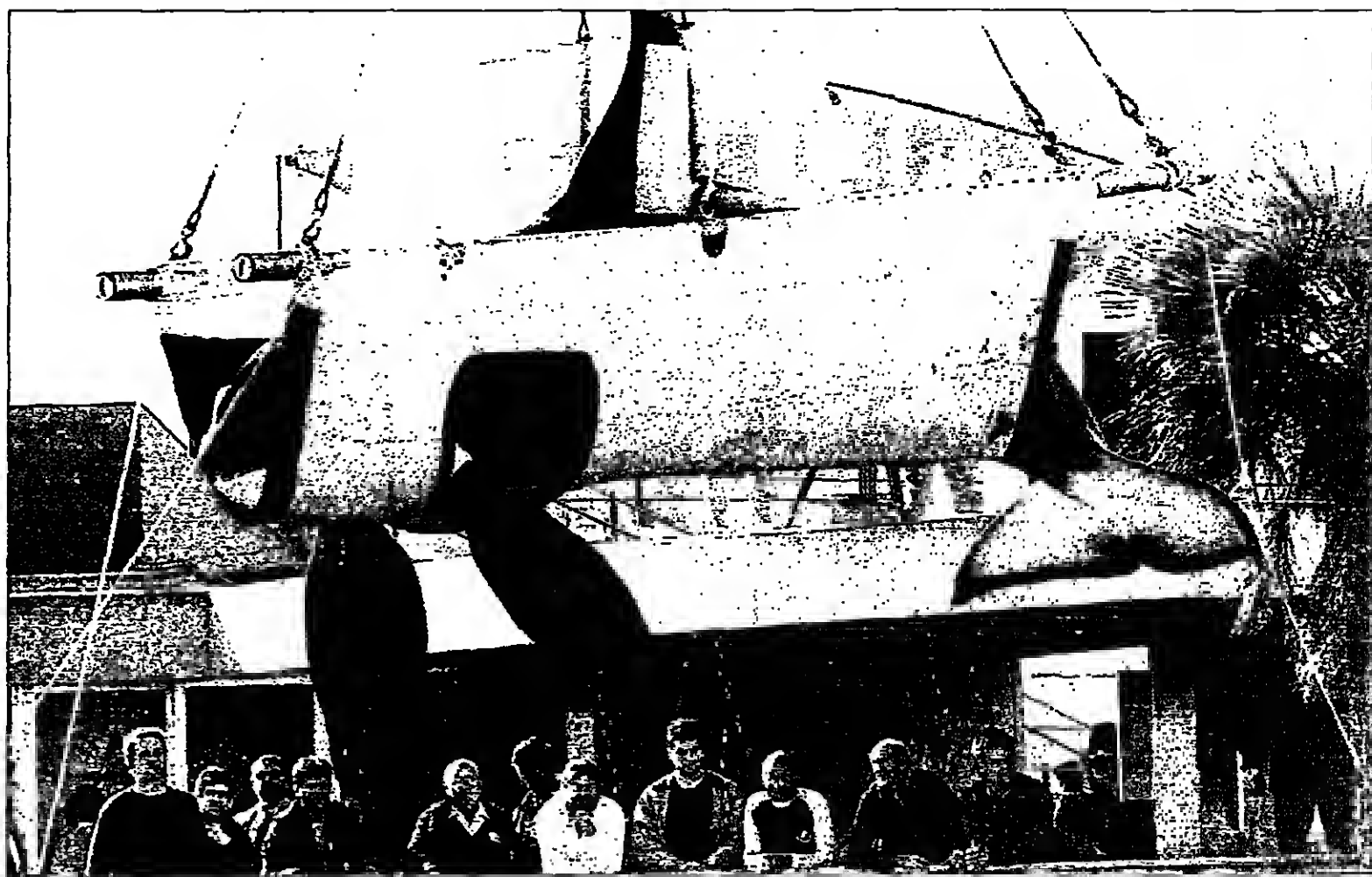
A frustrated PLO official yesterday accused the Israeli army of deliberately complicating the process. "It is trying to keep everything. It feels that security is its baby," he said.

Another PLO source close to the talks told reporters with a note of desperation: "It is all about sovereignty. They are trying to remind us at every step that it (the Palestinian self-rule area) is not an independent state, that it is only an interim stage."

Before the Cairo talks started on Monday, Amr Moussa, Egypt's Foreign Minister, who has been mediating, said that about 90 per cent of the work on finalising the agreement had been completed. But he emphasised that the remaining gaps would not be easy to bridge.

Campaign intensifies: Islamic militants battling to overthrow the pro-Western government of President Mubarak have expanded their campaign to enforce the Islamic ban on usury which is widely flouted in Egypt.

In a statement yesterday the main terrorist organisation Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group) claimed responsibility for three bombs planted at Cairo banks this week and gave a two-week deadline for all money to be withdrawn from institutions which pay interest. One bomb exploded at a branch of the Central Bank of Egypt, and two more were defused at branches of other leading banks.



Ulysses, a lonely 17-year-old killer whale, being lifted from his home at Barcelona zoo in a specially-constructed harness yesterday to begin his journey to the United States. The four-tonne whale, said to be suffering from depression, was to be

transported in a container in a special jumbo jet flight to San Diego's Marine Park. Ulysses was tranquillised before embarking on the journey to find love (Edward Owen writes). Hundreds of Spanish school children waved goodbye as

the whale, which had amused them with its tricks in Barcelona, was lifted out of the water. Animal behavioural experts said Ulysses had become frustrated with its lonely existence and wanted a mate. His pool at Barcelona zoo was too small

to accommodate another whale, which the move to the aquatic park in California should resolve. If Ulysses does find a partner, he may return to Barcelona in a couple of years with its mate if a larger pool is constructed at the zoo.

## Sister bids for dynastic crown in California

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

KATHLEEN Brown has kicked off the single most important American election of 1994 by announcing her candidacy for Governor of California, a job previously held by her father, Pat, and her brother, Jerry, the 1992 presidential candidate.

The contest is one that will shape the future of America's largest state while having a direct impact on the 1996 presidential race. Assuming that Ms Brown does win the Democrats' June primary, she will face Pete Wilson, the Republican incumbent, in November. A Wilson victory would make him a strong contender for the Republican nomination to challenge President Clinton in 1996.

A victory for Ms Brown, running on an unashamedly pro-business, socially tough "New Democrat" platform, would accelerate Mr Clinton's rightward realignment of the Democratic Party and further weaken its liberal wing.

The telegenic Ms Brown, 48, has five children and two grandchildren. If elected, she would be the Golden State's first woman Governor and the first Democrat to hold the office since her brother stepped down in 1983. California's only other postwar Democratic governor was her father. Ms Brown has a multi-million-dollar war chest and a plan to create jobs, fight crime and reform schools.

Opinion polls put her well ahead of John Garamendi, California's insurance commissioner and her Democratic primary opponent, and a little ahead of Mr Wilson, but that lead is about as stable as the San Andreas fault.

Ms Brown is not alone in trying to perpetuate a dynasty this year. George and Jeb Bush, sons of the former President, are seeking the Texas and Florida governorships. Patrick Kennedy, Edward Kennedy's son, is expected to win election to Congress from Rhode Island and become his family's third representative on Capitol Hill.

THE TIMES

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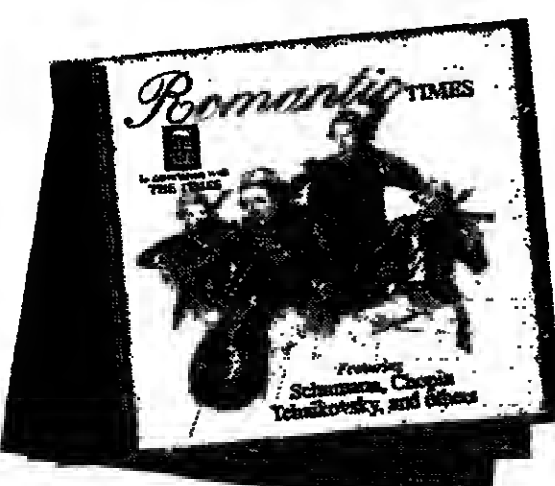
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send it to the address (below). If you missed the coupon in *The Times* last Saturday, February 5, you can still collect your first, second and third free CD or cassette as we will print another coupon this Saturday, with full details of how to get your fourth free CD or cassette.

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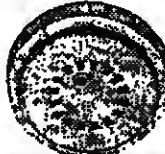
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# Oxford's prodigal returns

Matthew d'Ancona meets George Steiner as he heads back to the university which snubbed him

On October 11, in a venue to be announced, Oxford University will celebrate an unexpected autumnal homecoming. Forty-two years after his doctoral dissertation was turned down by its dons, George Steiner will return as the first Weidenfeld professor of comparative literature. It is an appointment that will send tremors of expectation and trepidation through the groves of British academia.

Why so? When I met Steiner in Geneva earlier this week, I was struck more by his conviviality than by the intellectual tyranny I had been led to expect. Steiner is an affable companion. But he is also one of the world's most famous intellectuals, whose past is part of high table folklore.

After 20 years at Geneva University, he is heading back to the university where he was a Rhodes Scholar in the early 1950s. The chair has been funded for ten years by Lord Weidenfeld, who has also been the driving force behind Oxford's new institute of European studies and is expected to set up a new annual prize for the best translation of a classic work.

Steiner's professorship will be based at St Anne's, but he also hopes to renew links with his old college, Balliol, where he was a contemporary of Lord Rees-Mogg. His excitement at this academic prospect and his planned lectures on the song of the Sirens is palpable.

"When my dissertation was rejected for a doctorate, among the letters commenting on this rejection was one from one of the most senior examiners which said: 'This is a book of comparative literature. It is not in the rubric,' he says. To set comparative work 'outside the rubric' was surely an odd judgment in the university of St. Louis. Wyclif and Robert Grosseteste; and one wonders what contemporary comparative scholars in Oxford such as Maurice Bowra, Isaiah Berlin and John Sparrow made of the snub. But for Steiner it was a premonition of things to come.

After spells at *The Economist* and Princeton, he joined Churchill College, Cambridge, as a founding fellow in 1961. There he embarked on an extraordinary series of lectures which regularly attracted a thousand students, transformed the reading tastes of a Cambridge generation and still seem compelling 30 years on.

Language itself, he claimed, was in jeopardy, barbarised by totalitarianism and mass consumerism. There was a general retreat from the word, as more and more areas of human understanding were colonised by science and mathematics. Perhaps, he argued, the humanities had failed to humanise. For had

not the men who ran the concentration camps read Goethe and played Schubert?

His rise at Cambridge seemed inexorable, and would have been so were it not for the fact that so many academics prefer to talk about intellectual freedom than to nurture it. "Instead of lecturing, as perhaps I ought to have, on Dryden's middle period," he says, "I lectured in the first year on 'How do we read a poem after Marx, Freud and Lévi-Strauss?' — with pretty fatal results."

He first sensed that the game was up when he heard Leavis advise his students not to "lose their time" by bothering with Proust. Then a senior member of the English faculty walked out of Steiner's lecture after he quoted Adorno's electric line: "No poetry after Auschwitz." He had, it transpired, been a prisoner on the Burmese death railways. As Steiner watched this gowned ritual march out of the lecture hall, he realised that he had overstepped an invisible mark. Cambridge — except for

his beloved Churchill, where he remains an extraordinary fellow — would not have him.

Failure to secure a faculty post prompted a long and sometimes difficult scholarly journey, during which he wrote his masterpiece on translation, *After Babel*. Yet his decades outside the ancient universities have yielded a corpus of work prescribed on reading lists all over the world.

He is a natural, compelling conversationalist, whose voice is full of drama, *piano* and *forte* by artful turn. Over the years, some journalists have found him overbearing, but I suspect this is because he prefers genuine dialogue to the conventions of interview. Over lunch, he was happy to gossip but when we sat down in his study office to talk he left no doubt that he believes the issues he writes about matter *profoundly*. He refuses to "negotiate his passions" and scorns those academics that do.

"I can't tell you how strongly I feel about this and it will be obvious in my visit to Oxford," he says. "A man who believes that 9th-century bronze Chinese chamber pots are the most important thing in the world should not negotiate. He can't. I can't negotiate."

He returns to Oxford still asking the same fundamental questions about language and culture. In his most recent critical work, *Real Presences*, Steiner argued that all great art is "touched by the ice and fire of God" and that fashionable theories such as Derrida's deconstructionism are blind to the ineffable, transcendent nature of language. True art, he claims, is underpinned by "real presences" and should be



George Steiner: "I'm committed to the view that McDonald's is not finally what it's all about"

valued as such. "I'm committed to the view that McDonald's is not finally what it's all about," he says. "I've no right to say to anyone you should read Aeschylus and not Joan Collins. No right whatever. And yet I do. No right but a despotic, unarguable, Neronian conviction."

In his 1991 novella, *Proofs*, a disillusioned Communist priest tells his proof-reader friend that America is the first civilisation to encourage "common, fallible, frightened humanity to feel at home in its skin". No, says his companion, "that is to hold man in utter contempt. It is to turn history into a graveyard for used cars". It is not hard to guess where Steiner's own sympathies lie.

Yet he is willing to accept the difficulties of his thesis and the fact that high culture has not saved the 20th century from brutality. "I dream of being able to find a way of teaching *Lear* in a way that his cry over Cordelia does not blot out or make less real the cry to the street," he says.

Thus the ancient universities reclaim another prodigal son. Steiner has high hopes for the new chair, even suggesting that it might lead to the establishment of a comparative literature paper attached to the Greats school. It is an ambitious proposal and one which may be hotly contested. Yet his will be a warm homecoming, in a university that appreciates irony and learns from its mistakes. Oxford is about to gain a Real Presence.

## Will the world come to an end in July? The prophetess of doom sees stars

It is easy to assume that Sister Marie Gabriel — she who takes advertisements in *The Times* warning of a cosmic explosion — is mad. Bonkers. Loopy. Nuts. But ring her on 081-450 2748 and listen to her tell, in a sing-song, babyish voice, her extraordinary story, and like me, you won't be quite so sure.

First her message. It is not that she is foretelling the end of the world. Rather, she stresses, God is giving us a sign which we neglect at our peril. This July, Halley's comet is due to collide with the planet Jupiter, the ad proclaims. "God had ordained this forthcoming cosmic event to warn all nations of what will happen to them if his messages are ignored."

On condition that the warning is obeyed and we revise our ways — "People must stop getting drunk, swearing, and bad temper, stop violent behaviour, give up drugs and porn. Stop all dishonesty, stealing and fraud" — we will be fine. If we ignore it we will be in the soup.

So far, so mad, you might think. But a comet really is set to collide with Jupiter, astronomers confirm — although not Halley's, actually, but Shoemaker-Levy. Sister Marie spotted the fact in July 1986, "ahead of all astronomers and well in advance of the most powerful telescopes".

Then sceptics must contend with the certainty of Sister Marie's convictions. The only time her sugared voice sounded acerbic during our conversation was when she dismissed suggestions that she might be deranged. "Visionaries have to come with that. It is very upsetting to be called mentally sick or to be told that I am imagining these things."

She even looks like a visionary. I sometimes go to the same Catholic church as her, the Carmelites in Kensington Church Street, West London. With her ash-blond hair tucked under her headscarf and in dark glasses, she is an arresting presence. "I perhaps look a little bit younger than I am," she says.

Now 53, she was born in the Byelorussian town now called Novogrudok in Poland, the child of a violinist and cousin of the rich Paprockis clan. (Her full name is Sofia Segalis Paprocki Orvid Pucialo.) In the clutch of photographs that Sister Marie dispatched to me, she included a photograph of what would have been her property had it not been confiscated by both the Germans and the Russians.

The family arrived in England in 1947, penniless refugees. In an effort to fund a convent education for his daughter, Sister

Marie's father starved himself. As if this was not poignant enough, Sister Marie was then injured in a car crash. She was hidden in a convent attic until she recovered.

At the Notre-Dame High School for Girls in Cheetham, Manchester, wrapped in the embrace of the Ursuline nuns, Sister Marie discovered God. She became intent on trying to become a saint, and soaked herself in histories of their lives.

Her sincerity can be in no doubt. She lives off invalidity benefit, her efforts to publicise doomsday funded by Catholic donors she refuses to identify. So poor is she that at times she has begged for clothes and foraged for rotten vegetables left out by greengrocers. She lived by candlelight for two years, unable to pay her electricity bill. She now lives in a modest flat in Chickwood, north London, in her aunt's Victorian house.

Yet her suffering has not proved in vain. In August 1984, the Virgin first appeared to Sister Marie, her hands crossed in prayer, clothed in a golden silk robe. Recently more visions have appeared, with the message that it is time Sister Marie spread the word.

Hence the ads in *The Times*. Last year, her book *Supernatural Visions* was published, a book of prophecies by a "gifted visionary mystic".

Her relationship with her printer ended in tears and this week she will meet him in court. "Sister Marie has not received one penny from her own book while printers and bookshops have made over quarter of a million pounds approximately," her advertisement says.

With a trusted band of eight followers, Sister Marie is seeking to lobby the influential. This week, she has been on the line to the Duke of Norfolk, Paul Getty, Cliff Richard and Richard Branson to draw their attention to her SOS. She is especially keen that Mr Branson should ground all his aircraft in mid-July "in case the Jupiter blast affects planes in flight".

She admits the response has been demoralising. "It's not that it upsets us," she says. "It's because it what could arise as a result. When Halley's comet does hit Jupiter, and there's a fireball, it's unpredictable where it may head." Her advice is to stay in cold dark cellars to avoid any heatwave and buy food for five days.

Lunatics are supposedly prophets without followers. Prophet are lunatics with followers, wrote Max Weber. I may be a lunatic, but she may be a prophet.

RACHEL KELLY



Sister Marie Gabriel

6 I've no right to say to anyone you should read Aeschylus, but I do

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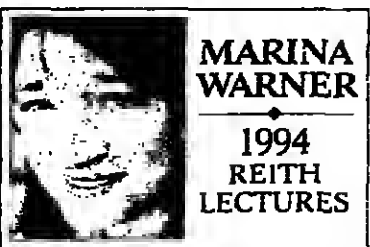
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## Little angels, little devils

Society pays a price for idealising children and separating them from the adult world



MARINA WARNER

1994 REITH LECTURES

MARINA Warner delivered her third Reith lecture last night and argued that nostalgia for an idealised childhood state has shaped our expectations of children in modern society — with dangerous consequences.

Drawing on evidence from the Romantic poets and Peter Pan to the trial of James Bulger's child-killers, Warner says the contemporary "cult of the child" mistakenly insists that childhood is a state of innocence, entirely separate from the adult world.

In "Little Angels, Little Devils: Keeping Childhood Innocent", her most political lecture so far in the series, Warner attacks government policy towards single mothers and childcare and argues that society can not expect children to behave better than the adults they mimic.

Kipling's *Mowgli* and Barrie's *Peter Pan* are prime examples of the dominant theme in contemporary mythology — that children are separate from adults, she says. "Both reveal the depth of adult investment in a Utopian childhood state, and this can lead to disillusion, often punitive and callous, with the young as people." Warner argues, citing the trial of James Bulger's murderers as evidence. "Their trial revealed a brutal absence of pity for them as children. It was conducted as if they were adults."

The 19th-century romantic thirst for recovering the childlike state inspired a plethora of children's literature, but ancient myths were sanitised for their new readership — with serious implications, she argues. The Brothers Grimm, at the beginning of the 19th century, trimmed away the eroticism of popular tales and shaped them into stories for children. Sex was dropped, but replaced by violence — especially in the form of "gleeful, retributive justice," she says.

In Grimm's stories, the wicked step-mother in *Snow White* dances to her death in red hot shoes, while *Sleeping Beauty* (who had borne twins to the Prince in earlier versions) is allowed only a kiss. "In the very midst of disillusion, often punitive and callous, with the young as people," Warner argues, children's literature ascribes to children a specially rampant natural appetite for all kinds of transgressive pleasures, including above all, the sado-masochistic thrills of fear," Warner says.

The alienation of the childhood from the adult state, together with unrealistic expectations of how children should properly behave, has led to a new, modern problem — the fear of the child, she argues.

Government policy must take account of the widening gap between the ideal of childhood and the reality: one of the fastest growing groups living in poverty in Britain is children with their mothers, Warner says.

"The same ministers who sneer about babies on benefit, and trumpet a return to basic values cannot see that our social survival as a civilised community depends on stopping this spiralling impoverishment of children's lives."

Out of the million jobs to be created in Britain before the year 2000, 90 per cent will be for women, but publicly-funded childcare is available for just 2 per cent of under-threes. "Meanwhile," she says, "the Government has proposed to allocate £100 million to creating prisons for 11 to 12-year-old offenders."

Warner argues that many of the problems faced by modern society stem from the mythology built up about the childhood state: "Children aren't separate from adults, and unlike *Mowgli* or *Peter Pan*, can't be kept separate: they can't live innocent lives on behalf of adults... like the best china kept in tissue in the cupboard."

In conclusion, she returns to her opening gambit — the story of Caspar Hauser, who was kept in a cellar in Germany until his unexplained release in 1828. He could not write, hardly spoke and was an object of mass fascination. The unfortunate child was denounced as a fake, and eventually murdered, in mysterious circumstances in 1833.

"We know by now that the man is father to the child; we fear that children will grow up to be even more like us than they already are," Warner says. "Caspar Hauser, the innocent, was murdered; now we're scared that if such a wild child were to appear today, he might kill us."

Next week: "Beautiful Beasts: The Call of the Wild".

EMMA WILKINS

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problems for doctors

Primrose troubled



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Surgeons learn new techniques . . . old problem, simple solution . . . aorta screening offers hope

## Problems for TV doctors

ENDOSCOPIC surgery, sometimes known as "keyhole" surgery because it is minimally invasive or requires minimal access, is a change to surgeons' profession as road transport faced when the internal combustion engine replaced the horse.

It is estimated that by 2000, 70 per cent of all surgical procedures will be done in this way. When the operation has been a success, the patients spend less time in hospital, there is less tissue destruction and post-operative discomfort is radically reduced. In America, it is predicted that within two years, 95 per cent of planned intra-abdominal surgical operations will be carried out using minimal access surgery.

Unfortunately, many surgeons have not been trained in and have



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

had little experience of this new discipline. The report of the working party of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh says: "Regrettably, the introduction of this new era of surgery has been poorly audited, with evidence that some organisations have attempted endoscopic operations without due consideration to the different skills required, and to the detriment of the patient's welfare."

The introduction of new technology always has some problems. When my grandfather bought his first car his coachman, excellent with horses, whose role it had been to drive him around his practice and hold the horse's head while he saw patients, was sent off to learn to drive. It was soon apparent that the coachman would never learn



Through the keyhole: endoscopic surgery makes modern demands

clutch, accelerator and brake, and thereafter his only duty was to sit beside my grandfather, who drove the car, and regale him with gossip.

Traditional surgeons owe their skill in operating as much to their ability to feel with their hands as to the appearance of every part of the inside of the abdomen, chest or joints. With keyhole surgery, these surgeons are now confronted with an operating field displayed on a TV screen and will be expected to use quite different instruments, interpreting anatomy and pathology in two dimensions.

Minimally invasive surgery will not replace traditional surgery, but the new techniques will be

come an important additional skill.

The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) is well aware of the problems endoscopic surgery has caused, and the dangers it can pose to the general public if it is badly executed. Like the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, with whom they are in consultation, the RCS understands that there is a need for continuing education in modern surgery techniques. This would presumably include endoscopic surgery and it seems probable that there will now be agreement between the various colleges that steps will have to be taken to ensure that any surgeon using these techniques will have

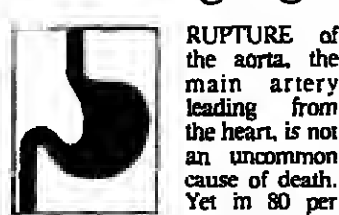
been fully trained to conduct the procedures and operations in question and that they thereafter maintain these skills.

In the meantime, three training centres are being opened, in Dundee, Leeds and at the Royal College of Surgeons in London. The London centre, which cost £1.6 million subscribed by the Wolfson Foundation and the Department of Health, will use simulators so that, like airline pilots undergoing a conversion course, surgeons will be able to practise their new skills without endangering the public. The centre will have fibre-optic links with the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel and the Royal Surrey Hospital in order to provide live television transmission of clinical procedures in these hospitals.

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) is the most obvious way of preventing osteoporosis, but it is not suitable for all women. One simple dietary measure to reduce the chance of developing osteoporosis has been reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. A research project at the University of California studied nearly 1,000 women aged between 50 and 98. This study showed a relationship, independent of other factors, between coffee drinking and reduced bone density and that the greater the number the cups of coffee drunk, the less dense the bone.

Regardless of other factors, two or more cups of coffee a day appreciably reduced bone density. Coffee-drinkers can redress the balance by drinking at least one glass of milk a day. Those patients who over many years had drunk milk were unaffected by coffee drinking. Even so, the American doctors were careful to point out that although milk may provide protection, it is not complete.

## Warning sign



RUPTURE of the aorta, the main artery leading from the heart, is not an uncommon cause of death. Yet in 80 per cent of cases, the signs of trouble can be detected by an ultrasound examination.

Pulse, the magazine for general practitioners, reports on trials involving 30,000 patients. Tests showed that 1 per cent of patients had an aortic diameter greater than 4cm, and were in danger of aortic rupture. The patients who had a close relative who had ruptured an aorta were six times more likely to suffer from a dilated aorta themselves, those with narrowed leg arteries were three times more likely, and those with a raised blood pressure 1.5 times as likely to have trouble.

After successful, non-emergency surgery on an enlarged aorta, the patient's life expectancy is no less than somebody within his age group with a normal aorta.

Vascular surgeons estimate that a screening programme for men over 65 to detect aortic dilatation would, in terms of years of life saved, be only one-tenth as expensive as breast cancer screening.

## Primrose oil in troubled waters

Nigel Hawkes peers over the drugs counter at a simmering row over the star of health products

An unseemly row has broken out on the health food counters. The shelves of herbs, potions and natural oils are shaking and rattling as the suppliers of evening primrose oil, the star among health supplements, slug it out.

The issue at stake is an important one. The row started when Dr David Horrobin, chief executive of Efanol, a major producer of evening primrose oil, accused rival producers of jumping on the bandwagon created by his extensive testing of the oil on human patients. Dr Horrobin is a research scientist who believes in applying the same rigour to health supplements as he would to a new drug synthesised in the laboratory.

The result has been to give evening primrose oil an elevated status and a listing on the British National Formulary. Doctors may prescribe it for eczema or for breast pain. At the same time, Efanol sells primrose oil capsules over the counter as a health supplement, as do other companies: there are now at least 30 primrose oils on the British market. The business is growing at a hectic rate and last year was worth £32 million.

Dr Horrobin's complaint was that a lot of these oils were making claims, some based on Efanol's research, which they could not justify. Surely one evening primrose produces the same oil as another?

Not so, says Dr Horrobin, accusing his competitors of boosting their primrose oil with oil from borage and of selling a chemically-refined product which lacks the stability and balance of the original. "Health claims made by many manufacturers for evening primrose oil and borage oil products are misleading thousands of women in an attempt



The evening primrose, whose oil is used to treat eczema and PMT

to cash in on a lucrative sales area," Efanol says.

"Misleading, disparaging and inaccurate," says Roche Products. Seven Seas, another producer, put it even more vividly: "This is the worst kind of mud-slinging. The truth is that Efanol is an over-priced product with declining sales. Last year its sales more than halved because there are more effective and better products such as ours on the market."

It may be significant, however, that the rival producers have not rushed forward with their own data on safety and efficacy. Legally, they are under no obligation to, though Seven Seas can claim its products are better without such evidence is not clear. Efanol denies that its market share is in decline.

What are the facts? Here we leave the world of spokesmen taking a swing at each other and enter a more complex environment. For the truth is that evidence of the efficacy of anybody's evening primrose oil is open to argument.

In the case of two conditions for which it is commonly used, eczema and pre-menstrual tension, recent studies are not encouraging. Two skin specialists reported last year in *The Lancet* that in tests on 100 people with eczema, "no improvement was demonstrated". And a Swedish study, also published last year, showed women with PMT got just as satisfactory results from paraffin oil. Dr Horrobin contests these findings.

Since none of the trials has shown that primrose oil can do any harm, women may be left to make up their own minds if it does them any good: many swear by it. More serious for Efanol's rivals are Dr Horrobin's criticisms of borage oil, used to boost the quantities of the active ingredient gamma-linolenic acid (GLA) in some primrose oils. Borage oil contains more GLA, but this, Dr Horrobin says, is no advantage. What matters is the form in which

the GLA is presented, and whether it is accompanied by oils which may be harmful.

He cites research done at the University of Guelph in Canada, showing that borage oil can increase the aggregation of blood platelets, posing a potential increased risk of heart attack or stroke. But this was a small study, using doses 20 to 50 times greater than normal, Roche says, and the increased platelet aggregation could simply have been a consequence of a high calorie intake.

Does the row matter? Yes, because we do need to know the likely effects of the vitamins, oils and other food supplements which many people now take as a matter of habit.

"Efanol has issued a very simple challenge to manufacturers of health care products," Dr Horrobin says. "Prove that your own product is both safe and effective. Manufacturers who respond to that challenge by claiming it is mud-slinging are reacting strangely, to say the least."

Ian Robertson explores the dramatic but mysterious effects of hypnotism

In India last century, a Scottish surgeon carried out more than 300 major yet apparently painless operations on hypnotised patients, ranging from limb amputation to the removal of scrofulous tumours. A medical committee chaired by the deputy governor of Bengal subsequently endorsed Dr James Esdaile's unorthodox use of hypnosis, which he advocated as a far more effective and safer anaesthetic than chloroform.

The fact that Dr Esdaile's methods did not catch on was to a great extent due to the cloud of suspicion which has hung over hypnotism ever since its origins in mesmerism in the 18th century. John Elliotson, professor of medicine at University College London, was being dubbed a professional pariah by the *Lancet* for his interest in mesmerism at the very time Dr Esdaile was happily sawing the legs off his hypnotised colonial soldiers.

Suggestion is at the heart of hypnosis, and the 15-20 per cent of the population who are hypnotically suggestible can do some very unusual things when hypnotised. Under the suggestion of the hypnotist, they may lose memories, say they see invisible objects, wipe non-existent insects from their faces, speak like children and endure pain which would normally overwhelm them, to mention just a few examples.

Psychologists disagree about what hypnosis actually is. One view is that hypnosis causes a special psychological state — a trance — which is out of, or dissociated from, normal waking consciousness. This special state of mind allows the person to experience and do things which would normally be impossible. The other view is that hypnosis is no more than play-acting, where the hypnotised person simply acts out what the hypnotist suggests. In other words, you act out a script you have learnt from films and books, just as if you were an actor in your local amateur dramatic society.

To see hypnosis as a harmless ritual has the advantage of demystifying it and discrediting the exaggerated claims of some hypnotists. There is no evidence that hypnosis helps you stop smoking, lose weight or cure emotional disorders, although as with every therapy in existence, there will always be some people who feel they have benefited from it. Hypnosis can, however, help burn victims feel less pain, and some dentists in Britain at times hypnotise rather than inject. Indeed, one of the standard textbooks on medical and dental hypnosis recommends hypnosis for reducing bleeding after dental surgery. Finally, the nausea which cancer patients endure in the course of their chemotherapy can also be helped by hypnosis in some cases.

But the play-acting explanation of hypnosis has its limitations, as an experiment by David Spiegel in Stanford University, California, shows. Students sat in front of a television monitor which flashed lights at them. Normally, these lights generate electrical discharges in the brain which can be picked up by brainwave detectors, or EEG. Spiegel hypnotised his students and suggested that they hallucinate a box in front of the TV monitor while the lights continued to flash: he found that the brainwaves in the visual parts of the brain were reduced as if there really

## The strange power of suggestion

was a box blocking the lights.

Whether hypnosis involves play-acting or trance induction, it is a powerful technique which can do harm as well as good, particularly in vulnerable people. For this reason, the two organisations regulating hypnosis in Britain only allow qualified physicians, dentists or psychologists to be members. The British Society for Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis and the British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis oppose self-styled hypno-

therapists offering therapy for everything from shyness to smoking as much as they object to stage hypnosis.

Such was the concern in the Fifties about the potentially damaging consequences of stage hypnosis that Len Abse successfully passed a private member's bill through the House of Commons in 1952, giving local authorities the power to regulate or prohibit

stage hypnosis in their jurisdiction. This same bill banned anyone under 21 from stage hypnosis shows. The last successful legal case in the UK against a stage hypnotist (for assault and professional negligence) was in 1948.

I have talked to one professor of psychology in Britain who strongly opposes the protectionist views of professional bodies such as the British Society for Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis. He routinely teaches his students to hypnotise each other as a way of demystifying the ritual. In his eyes, the hypnotist is doing no more than telling someone to do something they could do themselves anyway. Indeed, self-hypnosis books and tapes are widely available, and could be seen as a desirable debunking of professional conceit.

Such a view may however underestimate the dramatic power of ritual to alter mental processes in people who would

find it difficult to do so under more normal circumstances. Hypnotists have no special characteristics other than a total confidence and belief in the effectiveness of their own suggestions, and they boost their credibility by adopting tones of voice and mannerisms which strongly influence the suggestible.

Freud abandoned hypnosis after toying with it for years because he believed its authoritarian style hindered effective psychotherapy. This style and its accompanying ritualistic mystique probably make hypnosis somewhat more open to abuse than other types of therapy.

Ritual or no ritual, hypnosis can have dramatic effects, as Dr James Esdaile's colonial amputees no doubt would have testified. A British Medical Association sub-committee published a report in 1955 recommending that the subject of hypnosis be taught to all medical undergraduates in Britain, and that trainee psychiatrists, anaesthetists and obstetricians be trained in its clinical use.

Yet a survey carried out in 1978 found that such teaching was virtually unheard of in medical and dental schools. No doubt this is in part because doctors are frightened off by the whiff of quackery. Yet after 200 years hypnosis's powerful effects remain to be understood — and maybe one day harnessed more effectively.

The author is senior scientist at the ARC Applied Psychology Unit, Cambridge.



Is hypnosis a trance or just play-acting?

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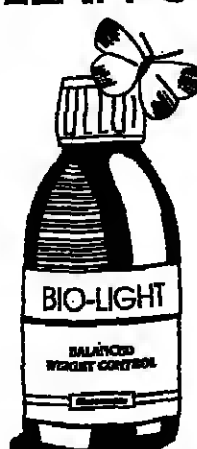
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## Janet Daley



Most people now accept that marriage has been devalued, and wish to rebuild it

What a pity that the Prime Minister lost his nerve over "family values". Had he been a leader of political passion rather than a backroom fixer, he might have seen through all the cant and the deliberate subverting of his message. A lot of real people — as opposed to media characters — are deeply worried by the traducing of the traditional family which has swept through popular culture over the past 30 years.

They scarcely needed to be told by academic research that the casual dissolution of marriage was disastrous: that children are not just baggage in the sexual peregrinations of their parents; that what is a transitory personal relationship to two adults is the architecture of the universe for their children.

This week's *Panorama* was something of a milestone: no glib spokespersons argued that the two-parent family is an anachronism which has been superseded by a super-market full of possibilities. Instead of self-interested wishful thinking, we had a

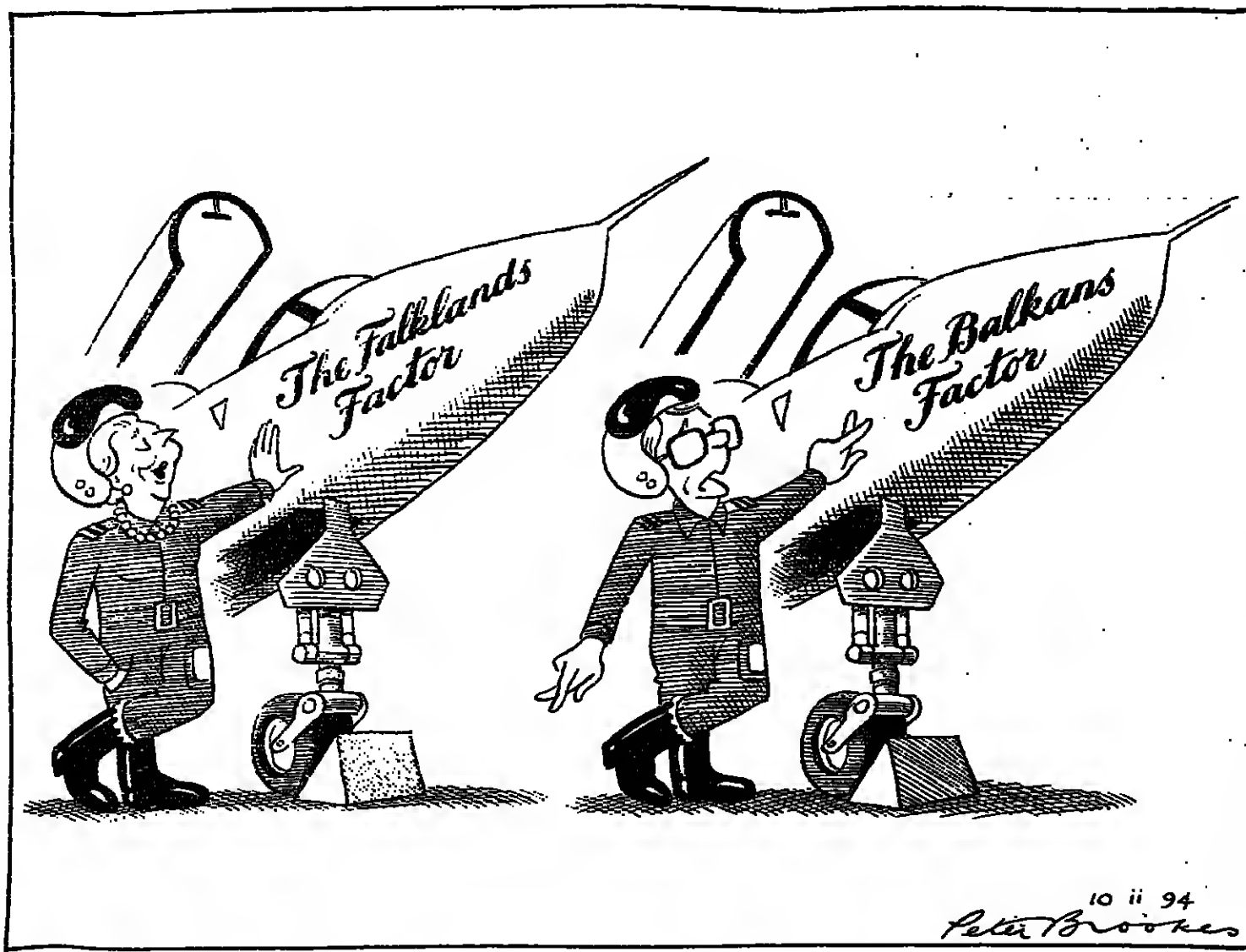
### Marriage meant upholding a corner of the social fabric

what kept an awful lot of people going through the bad patches.

*Panorama's* evidence from the paediatricians and collators of questionnaires from the fascinating Rowntree Trust research project was largely superfluous for the great mass of people who have always sworn that there would be a day of reckoning.

Now that this popular opinion has been vindicated, people will look for leadership out of this calamity. And politicians, like it or not, are the ones who turn vague social aspiration into practical measures. They do not — as Mr Major's weak-willed colleagues seem to think — have to exemplify these values for the policies to have integrity. The divorce reformers of the 1960s were not themselves obliged to be divorced.

If ministers were trying to impose an unpopular set of beliefs, then they would be obliged, like any proselytisers, to live by the rules they advocated. But if they are acting on the wishes of the people, then their own habits are scarcely relevant. Marriage was devalued by a generation of politicians because they believed that the people wanted it so. Mr Major probably does believe that there is now widespread regret over this. It is his tragedy that reconstructing an edifice is so much less glamorous than demolishing it.



## More grey is forecast

Behind the passing political storms lies a severe economic depression

At Christmas it began to look as though the Government might be past the worst. The economy showed signs of recovery. The opinion polls had stabilised. John Major was still there, after a year of repeated attacks. Some sympathetic commentators started to write optimistic articles.

So the last few weeks have been all the more disappointing for the Conservatives: one way or another, this has been as bad a period as anyone can remember for any government. It is deeply depressing for the Conservative Party. The Prime Minister reminds one of Tennyson's heroine:

Out flew the Tennyson and floated wide:  
The mirror cracked from side to side:  
"The curse is come upon me," cried  
The Lady of Shalott.

He must wonder what on earth he has done to deserve such a doom.

The individual events of this period have ranged from the trivial (Norman Lamont's lunchtime indiscretion) to the tragic (Stephen Milligan's death). What they have had in common is that they have all cast shadows over the Conservative Party. For hardly any of them could the Prime Minister be held responsible: perhaps he should have been more ruthless in dismissing Mr. Yoo, just as he might earlier have been quicker to dismiss David Mellor, but in both cases it was an amiable error of judgment, excessive tolerance of a wounded minister. In January and early February, John Major has seemed extraordinarily unlikely, rather than personally blameworthy. If Winston Churchill himself had been Prime Minister, he could neither have foreseen nor prevented such events.

What might have been different? Is their impact. Perhaps in other circumstances such events would have been treated as individual indiscretions or disasters, having no significance beyond their impact on the lives of those directly concerned. If they are now perceived as an indictment of the Government, or of the Conservative Party, there must be some real underlying weakness which makes them so damaging.

One factor is the personality of the Prime Minister. His critics should be fair to John Major, even if he belongs to a temperamental type unsuited, in their view, to leadership. Leaders must have vision. They may be good people or bad. They may be kindly or brutal. They may be industrious or lazy. Yet to be effective they must have a sense or direction for their

supporters to follow. In recent American history, Ronald Reagan was in this way a leader, but George Bush was uncomfortable with "the vision thing". The one exception to this need for vision in the 20th-century history of British politics has been Clement Attlee. His great election victory in 1945 owed little to his personal vision, and almost everything to the appeal of democratic socialism after the war.

John Major is not a leader of strong imagination or charismatic appeal. The Tory Party has exhausted its sense of mission. The Prime Minister believes in a cautious and pragmatic approach to public administration. He lacks eloquence of mind or language. A respectable body of Conservative political theory supports his approach. Such theorists argue that governments can only make a limited contribution to human welfare; that

William Rees-Mogg

as Alexander Pope wrote — "Whatever is best administered is best." His critics, on the other hand, demand a Prime Minister who — as Joseph Addison wrote of the Duke of Marlborough — "rides in the whirlwind and directs the storm". What might be called whiplash regards this as too romantic and florid.

The Churchillian view of politics is certainly open to abuse. How does one distinguish it from Carlyle's hero-worship of Frederick the Great or even from the Führerprinzip of Nazi Germany? Yet it accords with human experience. Without inspiration and excitement, a political party or government loses momentum. When that happens, secondary events are taken as primary. When the historians come to look at this week's events, which include the decision to use air-power to compel the Serbs to stop bombarding Sarajevo, they will find the newspapers full of the sad details of Stephen Milligan's death. If a leader does not convey the drama of historic issues, trivial ones will predominate.

We have to understand the public mood. If one were dealing with an individual rather than a nation, the diagnosis would be only too obvious. The British are showing the symp-

ptoms of clinical depression. There is the feeling of futility, the feeling that no exertion is worth making. There is the feeling of irritability: we are quick to turn on each other. Voters are happy to vote against the Government with no expectation of better government from the parties they thereby support. There is a lack of vitality, both in the Government and in the nation itself. There is this greyness: grey is the colour of depression, just as black is the colour of despair. Only if this mood can be altered will the fortunes of the Government improve. I do not think John Major has the temperamental qualities required to alter it — he

seems understandably depressed himself — but I am not sure that any of the other possible leaders, Conservative or Labour, could alter it either.

Such moods of national depression are cyclical. Britain has a more optimistic side to its nature. However, this cyclical depression is now associated with three down-waves which are affecting many countries apart from ourselves. Swinburne wrote of "the great third wave, that never a swimmer shall cross or climb".

The three waves are the downturn of the long-term system of world credit, the transfer of economic strength and growth from Europe to Asia, and the impact of new technologies on old structures of employment. If one looks at the impact of these waves on the average British family, the prospect is for fewer jobs with lower pay.

As in the 1930s, the long-term credit cycle requires a liquidation of debt and the rebuilding of individual, corporate and national balance sheets. The short-term cycle may be in recovery in Britain (it certainly is not in Germany or Japan), but debt liquidation has not been completed, and no new basis for investment has been established. It looks as though the 1990s will see a whole decade of historically low growth in the industrialised world. Yet productivity is rising fast. So the number of good jobs being created falls far short

of the number of men and women being trained to fill them.

Europe currently has a growth rate one third of those of the emerging Asian economies, and this underperformance is expected to continue for another 20 years at least. Unemployment in Germany has passed four million, and in the European Community is heading for 20 million. In Britain the unemployment figures have been falling, but that is partly an illusion, as there are more low paid, part-time jobs, but fewer well-paid, full-time jobs.

Machine-age jobs are currently being destroyed more quickly than information-age jobs are being created. Almost every large company expects this to continue. In particular, whole tiers of middle management are becoming redundant, particularly in service industries such as banking and insurance. Each redundancy destroys for good what was a job opportunity. The job opportunity which opens up to replace it is more likely to be in Asia than in Europe.

These three great down-waves are affecting other nations as well as Britain. They contributed to the recent election defeats in the United States, Canada, France, Italy and Japan: they seem likely to defeat Chancellor Kohl in Germany. They are the primary causes of the exceptional unpopularity of the British Government. The scandals and tragedies of recent weeks are secondary infections, which have become serious only because they are attacking an already weakened body. The Conservative Party has been in power too long, and the public is bored and resentful.

No European party has an adequate strategy for dealing with any of the three down-cycles, although the French socialist strategy, supported by Jacques Delors, would do more harm than any other. In the absence of such a strategy, changes of ministers are only a superficial response, although in France Edouard Balladur has shown that an agreeable personal style can be helpful. After the defeats to be expected in May's local government elections, June's European elections, and now the Eastleigh by-election, the Conservatives may well change their leader. This will not rejuvenate the party or make its medicines work better, but it might improve the doctor's bedside manner.

## Gould's mistimed chances

Anthony Howard  
on a man of awkward merit

The prospective departure of Bryan Gould from British public life marks the end of a sad personal story. But it is still essentially a personal rather than a political story. Even in the context of the Labour left, Gould was always a curiously anomalous figure. He may recently have enjoyed the plaudits of the Tribune group — which he certainly deserves for his firm advocacy of full employment — but it is not so very long since he was proudly proclaimed as the first of Labour's "modernisers".

It is hard today to recapture the mood of 1987 when, as election coordinator, Gould was virtually in charge of the glitzy first Kinnock campaign. Then, with Peter Mandelson, he was the man who brought the party modern marketing techniques. No one at that stage was closer to Neil Kinnock — and, though three years older than Labour's then leader, he was spoken of as Kinnock's heir apparent.

What went wrong? The swift answer lies in the back-room deals of politics. After Labour's defeat in 1992, when the Opposition front bench needed brightening up, Gould desperately wanted to be appointed shadow Chancellor. He certainly had a strong claim to the job, but two men were determined that he should not get it: the outgoing shadow Chancellor and deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, and the then shadow spokesman on trade and industry, John Smith.

Despite regular briefings from Walworth Road suggesting that Gould had the post in the bag, they successfully blocked him. However reluctantly, Kinnock was compelled to announce that the next shadow Chancellor would be John Smith. The old axis from the 1983 leadership election (when Smith acted as Hattersley's campaign front) had forced its will upon Labour's leader.

In one sense, Gould's career as a front-ranking Opposition politician never recovered. At the 1987 party conference, he was actually booed when urging the party to come to terms with capitalism — as ill-luck would have it virtually on the eve of Black Monday and the stockmarket crash.

Later came a tendency to make policy on the hoof; even Kinnock was irritated when Gould seemed to give a hostage to fortune over Labour's plans for mortgages. Nor was he much more successful with his attacks on the poll tax — imperilling Labour's own assault by a unilateral invention of his own which the Tories promptly dubbed the "roof tax".

The clue to Gould's basic political convictions lies perhaps in his early association with Peter Shore, whose PPS he was after first entering Parliament in 1974. The two men were certainly both antipathetic towards Europe. When Gould spoke against Community policies for raising tariffs against the outside world, he was dismissed from his post at the demand of the then Prime Minister, Jim Callaghan. Throughout the next three years, to his credit, Shore did not replace him.

But Shore himself was always one of the most conservative members of Callaghan's cabinet — and at that stage there was certainly nothing to suggest that Gould's heart belonged to the left. There was not much indication of that either in the revisionist work he wrote in 1989, *A Future for Socialism*. That, of course, was a deliberate echo, and if there is real cause to mourn Gould's defection, it is because he is one of the last heirs of Anthony Crosland to remain in Labour's ranks. Not to put too fine a point on it, he is at least — with his background as a Rhodes scholar and a top-flight BCL degree from Oxford — entitled to be considered an intellectual. With the possible exception of that inveterate and stimulating heretic, Frank Field, there is hardly another one left in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Gould's moment of truth almost certainly came when he risked standing against John Smith for the party leadership in July 1992. He was not only defeated: he was annihilated, getting less than 10 per cent of the total vote. I recall speaking to him for *Newsnight* that afternoon at the Royal Horticultural Hall. He put a brave face on things, but it was clear to me that he had seen his political dream shattered. John Smith then offered him the derisory post of shadow National Heritage spokesman, later treating his removal from the National Executive and resignation from the shadow cabinet with equanimity bordering on relief.

If there were any justice in the political world, Bryan Gould should have come into his own at the moment the ERM policy collapsed. But to be prematurely right in politics tends not to make you popular. By then the man who had been the mascot of the New Model Labour Party had been sidelined.

The truth is that the former diplomat, law don and television interviewer was never cut out for the rough-and-tumble of party combat. He lacked Denis Healey's brutality, Dick Crossman's versatility, or Tony Crosland's inimitable disdain. In Labour politics, he was — as was once said of Roy Jenkins — "the man of inconvenient merit".

## Playing for safety

AS Eastleigh constituency officials come to terms with the tragic loss of their MP, former colleagues of Stephen Milligan are already speculating about the choice of by-election candidate. But although an agent has already been dispatched to the constituency by Central Office, the early consensus is that would-be Tory MPs will be slow in putting their names forward for this one.

"A poisoned chalice." "Look what happened to the others." "No thank you" — go the cries. Which is not unreasonable, given the price paid by previous by-election candidates for the dubious privilege of three weeks of unrelenting media attention. Intense scrutiny of their personal lives, plus an uncertain welcome on a thousand doorsteps. Remember, poor Rob Hayward, the Church of England candidate, who has now relinquished politics? Or Julian "Mr Blobby" Davidson, vanquished by writers at Newbury and dumped by the local party never to be heard of again.

The risk of never recovering from a mid-term reverse means two political hopefuls with strong credentials for Eastleigh can probably already be ruled out. One is

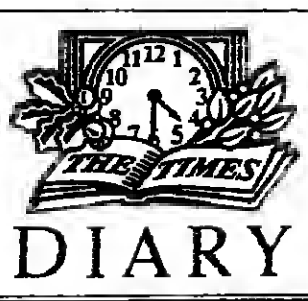
Patrick Rock, a long-serving political adviser, who lost the Portsmouth South by-election to the SDP, and who, ironically, is another close friend of *Daily Telegraph* reporter Julie Kirkbride. Another is Christopher Chope, who lost his seat at nearby Southampton Itchen in 1992.

Best advice to local officials — apparently endorsed privately by the party vice-chairman Dame Angela Rumbold — is to opt for "a good local woman".

● A footnote to our story describing the anguish on Tuesday within the BBC on reporting the bizarre circumstances of Stephen Milligan's death is a memo advising all regional stations what could and could not be mentioned on air. "We can now say that he was wearing women's clothing, we can say he had a plastic bag on his head, and we can mention that he was bound with flex," advised the BBC bigwigs. "But on no account mention fruit."

### Tainted by expertise

CLIPPED-TONED commentators have been trembling in front of



their microphones ever since Liz Forgan, head of radio at the BBC, called last month for a new breed of announcers with regional accents for Radio 3.

And there are clear indications that their fear is well placed. A presenter of *Farming Today* has been sacked because his voice reminds Michael Green, controller of Radio 4, too much of the World Service.

George Macpherson, who does indeed broadcast for the World Service, will stop presenting *Farming Today* in March, although he will still work as producer of the programme.

Macpherson refuses to comment on the decision, but a horn-banded BBC source is more forthcoming. "Like so many in the BBC, George has been tainted by experience."

● Political correctness is reaching ridiculous proportions in the United States, where there are reports of a Barbie Liberation Organisation kidnapping Barbie dolls and their male equivalents, GI Joe dolls, to swap their voice boxes. The attempt to "combat gender stereotypes" now has the dolls saying "Eat lead, Cobra", while the GI Joe utters the benefits of shopping.

### Devil's own job

He may only be acting-editor, but Donald Trefford is determined that the *Oldie* gathers no moss during his time in charge. Having already introduced a sports page to the magazine, the former editor of *The Observer* is close to agreeing terms with Sir Kingsley Amis for a restaurant column.

"I've not finally agreed yet," says Amis, whose next book, *You Can't Do Better*, is out in September. But a contract has been submitted to his agent and it should be signed shortly. So what can *Oldie* readers expect? "The column will not just be about food," says Amis. "It will include service, atmosphere and things like that."

Trefford reckons Amis is perfect for the job. "He is a great writer, he is a great trencherman and he is a great *Oldie*."

### Prolific columnist

ENGLAND, it seems, expects every writer to do his duty and produce a biography of Nelson. Barry Unsworth included. Unsworth, joint winner of the 1992 Booker Prize with his novel *Sacred Hunger*, is giving fiction a rest to write a biography of the nation's greatest sea-larmer.

"It is his first work of non-fiction," says his publisher Penelope Hare of Sinclair-Stevenson. "He knows about the period and he knows about research. It will be an excellent book."

That's the sailing sorted, but what about the sex? Some pundits believe the frequency of Nelson

biographies (a work by Christopher Hibbert is expected shortly) means there is little likelihood of much new being unearthed.

"His letters were published in Victorian times," says Colin White, curator of the Royal Naval Museum at Portsmouth. "So it's well known he had Emma Hamilton as his mistress and that despite being extremely kind and warm, he was rather cruel to his wife."

White's own reference work, *The Nelson Companion*, is due out next year. "I suppose it's a classic case of London buses," he says philosophically.

### Peaks and Valleys

HURRIED celebrations are being arranged at the Cardiff-based production company Pendefig, after its film *Head Wym* unexpectedly earned Britain an Oscar nomination in the "best foreign language" category. Competing against box-office successes such as *Farewell, My Concubine* and *Belle Époque*, the Welsh language film, which tells the moving tale of a young Welsh poet, looks a long shot for the statuette. But celebrations have already begun.

"They might not be dancing in the Valleys, but I imagine the local pubs will do a roaring trade," says producer Shan Davies.

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## DOG DAYS WITH DENG

China sees its paramount leader, but not for long

Deng Xiaoping's appearance yesterday on Chinese television, his first for over a year, is more likely to concentrate Chinese minds on his demise than to bolster official assurances of his good health. So frail that he had to be supported on both sides by his daughters, China's 89-year-old paramount leader was seen, but not heard, as he entered the Shanghai reception marking the advent of the Year of the Dog. His chief ideological foe among the old guard, Chen Yun, was given almost equal prominence. And there was none of Mr Deng's celebrated pithiness in the banal new year's greetings he was officially reported to have uttered. His alleged call for unity reflects, rather, the anxieties of his rivals for the succession.

So acute is the fear in Peking that the centre may not hold when the old man dies that, unprecedentedly in Communist China, Mr Deng's death has ceased to be a taboo subject. Last September, a lengthy report by the Chinese Academy of Sciences dared to suggest that in post-Deng China, "a situation like post-Tito Yugoslavia might emerge", with economic collapse followed by political disintegration.

Such musings, even in a document circulated only to the Party élite, are explosive in a country with no tradition of peaceful political change, and would under Mao Tse-tung have brought swift retribution for "counter-revolutionary" behaviour. They cut still closer to the marrow today, since none of the rival contenders for power can claim the old man's blessing. Yet the authors who thus raised the spectre of end-of-dynasty turmoil went unrebuked. Last month, the mass-circulation *China Youth Daily* published a further article by an Academy member warning of disastrous consequences if "the process of transferring power is mishandled".

There is plenty of tinder, should divisions paralyse the central government post-Deng.

Last year more than 200 riots were officially reported among China's 900 million peasants, many of them pushed aside in China's rush to modernise. An estimated 130 million can no longer find work in the countryside, and 10 million are heading for cities and coastal boom areas. Indispensable reforms of China's state industries could add another 150 million urban employed — beneficiaries for decades of Mao's "iron rice bowl" cradle-to-grave socialism.

Handling all this requires clear policies, deftly balanced, as Peking struggles to rein in China's galloping economy. Instead Zhu Rongji, the reforming vice-premier, has to contend with dogged obstruction from powerful local bosses, and from rivals in the Party's Central Committee who see political advantage in parroting Dengisms such as "only fast growth is socialism".

Since July, Mr Zhu has been trying to rein in credits, restore fiscal discipline and reform state industry and the banking system, without slamming on the brakes so hard as to provoke a serious escalation in social unrest. But he has been repeatedly forced by his rivals to change tack. The purse strings were tightened only to be loosened, allowing industrial growth to soar to 30 per cent in December, taking inflation with it, before controls were abruptly reimposed.

Inflation stokes up resentment against the plutocrats who have made fortunes in China's runaway property boom, and against the corrupt officials hand in glove with them. The poor are suffering real hardship — the cost of vegetables rose last year by 40 per cent — and Mr Zhu is on record that the Party could lose so much support on this grassroots issue that "we will have no control over the situation". To combine capitalist techniques with communist controls is inherently risky. In China's anteroom of death, the tightrope seems tantalisingly close to snapping.

## GOULD THE GOAD

Labour is losing one of its fiercest, if flawed, critics

Bryan Gould, once the epitome of Labour's "red rose" rebirth in 1986, became John Smith's sharpest thorn after the 1992 election. The transformation from right-wing moderniser to left-wing troublemaker was never entirely convincing. But many of his criticisms, like thorns, drew blood. And now that he is leaving Parliament, the Labour Party will be the poorer for the loss of his eclectic, if erratic, brand of dissent.

Mr Gould, in his 15 years in Parliament, showed himself capable of almost Wilsonian opportunism in his bid for popularity within the party. Just as Wilson liked to portray himself as more left-wing than he really was, in order to fend off the threat from right-wingers such as George Brown, James Callaghan and Roy Jenkins, Mr Gould realised that if his main rival for the leadership was to be Mr Smith, he would have to change his ideological clothes.

The tactic could not work because Mr Gould never looked like a man of the left. He naturally fitted into the mould of an intelligent, articulate, middle-class southerner who recognised that Labour had to change to reflect broader changes in society. When he criticised John Smith's 1992 shadow Budget for capping people's aspirations, he sounded sincere when, more recently, he complained that Gordon Brown was letting off the rich too lightly, his words rang hollow. Similarly he was more convincing when arguing for one-member-one-vote than, at last year's conference, berating John Smith for alienating the trade unions.

Mr Gould's personal animus towards Mr Smith seems to have sprung mainly from rivalry. Immediately after the 1987 election, in which Mr Gould shone as campaign coordinator, he would have liked to have been made shadow Chancellor. Instead Mr

Smith won the job, despite Mr Gould's popularity: that autumn Mr Gould easily topped the shadow cabinet poll and sailed onto the national executive committee at his first attempt. After that the two men clashed frequently in shadow cabinet. Mr Gould had no chance of beating Mr Smith in the leadership election of 1992: he had never built up a power base and colleagues mistrusted his judgement.

But running through Mr Gould's political life has been one consistent strand: a deep scepticism about Britain's membership of the European Community. Peter Shore was his mentor, and the two of them maintained a guerrilla war against Labour's conversion to Europe, at some times more muted than at others. Mr Gould's economic policies reflect his view that Britain ought to be able to go it alone: his enthusiasm for a national economics with import controls and devaluation smacks of the sort of "socialism in one country" that President Mitterrand tried and failed with in the early 1980s.

While his policy prescriptions may have been outdated or utopian, Mr Gould's criticisms of John Smith's regime were often to the point. His pleas for the Labour leadership to be more expansive, more led by ideas and more alert to the changes facing Britain still deserve to be heard. And though his scepticism about Maastricht was somewhat clouded by his anti-Europeanism, he raised many questions about the dangers of European integration that Labour has yet to answer. Mr Smith may be relieved by the departure of his chief rival, but his criticisms of Labour's inertia and complacency remain as valid as ever. Without Mr Gould's constant goading, the Labour leadership may find it harder to shake these charges off.

## THE MULCH OF LOVE

Lettuce now praise Classic FM

Surely music is the food of love, not compost for onions? The transplantation of *Gardeners' Question Time* from Radio 4 to Classic FM deals a major blow to conventional wisdom. The long-serving team of one of radio's most popular programmes has uprooted from the BBC and re-planted itself with Radio Three's brash young competitor. Have the panelists wilted in the scorching heat of the Birtan BBC? Will trowel or trowatore ever be the same again?

GQT, as it is known by its fans, has been on the air since 1947 and is one of the BBC's longest-running programmes. Most of its listeners are deemed by audience research to be well established women — that is, older than the programme itself. In its traditional format the panel met in a village hall to discuss with the audience, and gardeners-on-the-phone, such topics as mildew on vegetable marrows and the disappointments of dahlias grown in alkaline soils on eastward-facing slopes.

The BBC decided, however, that the programme should become more entertaining for a younger, more suburban and less middle-class audience. Enter Classic FM, committed to preserve the older format for its *Classic Gardening Forum*. The station's licence dictates, however, that the programme's traditional question and answer sequences be interspersed with classical music. The search is now on for pieces appropriate to flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Here may sprout a little difficulty: there is the renowned "green opera", Mozart's *La finta giardiniera*, but the countess in love, disguised as a gardener, seems better at human intrigue than bedding-out plants. There are notable pastoral symphonies, though the composer of the most famous protested that it was "rather an expression of feeling than pictorial representation". Flowers feature in some of the *lieder* as emblems of mortality or the fragility of love; and the best of British opera is performed at either end of Covent Garden.

But listeners to *Gardeners' Question Time* are as devoted to robust vegetables as they are to frail flowers. Vegetables have been given short shrift by musicians. Percy Grainger managed to incorporate some earthy music in his *Country Gardens*, and Gilbert serenaded a vegetable love for a bashful young potato, or a not-too-French French bean. *Salad Days* and *Share My Lettuce* are not past their sing-by dates, at any rate by amateur performers. But turnips and beetroot are musically neglected, and if Classic FM needs an operetta on Brussels sprouts, it will have to commission one.

Gardening is man's effort to improve his lot. Music is his relaxation to delight his mind. Both are forms of culture in the broad sense, and the new producers deserve the best of luck in trying to bring them together. In the words of the song from *Ecclesiastical*, "Lettuce now praise Classic FM".

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Call for concerted action on Bosnia

From Dr R. L. Wokler

Sir, Sir Edward Heath's objections to air strikes in Bosnia (article, February 9) are lamentably misguided. The justification for aerial attacks, as well as for the lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnian state forces, has always been to minimise civilian casualties overall and to promote peace negotiations by putting a price upon further Serbian aggression.

If a multilateral response to terror is now deemed too risky, then the UN, Nato and the European Community might as well be dissolved altogether.

The principal factor which has made this catastrophe possible is not some peculiarly Balkan legacy of religious hatred or racial differences built up over centuries, but the absence of a concerted foreign policy by the governments of Western Europe to deal with the current decomposition of states at its borders.

It is barbarous to send humanitarian aid to civilians awaiting slaughter, and then to oppose military assistance so as not to jeopardise the lives of relief workers.

How does Sir Edward's vision of cosmopolitan Europe differ, in effect, from the nationalist jingoism of some other Conservatives? Unless wiser counsel prevails, British diplomacy will be synonymous with appeasement, and we shall lose by default our already tenuous hold upon a permanent seat in the Security Council.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT WOKLER,  
University of Manchester,  
Department of Government,  
Manchester M13 9PL,  
February 9.

From Mr D. W. Berry

Sir, Today I read in one of your correspondents' reports from the former Yugoslavia that "Bosnian forces often open fire first, killing Serb civilians". They go on to refer to "the Serb response".

Surely this throws a fresh light on what is happening. I have not seen this aspect reported before, and it is almost never shown or referred to on television.

Similarly, although the UNHCR reports that there are over half a million refugees in Serbia and Montenegro, I cannot recall seeing any of these being interviewed on television, or reading newspaper reports of their plight.

Are we being given a true picture of this terrible civil war?

Yours faithfully,  
D. BERRY,  
137 Pullman Court,  
Streatham Hill, SW2,  
February 7.

### Death of Tory MP

From Mrs Bernadette J. N. R. Forsey

Sir, What is most tragic about the death of Stephen Milligan is that he will not be remembered as the gifted young politician he was but as the "tragic Tory MP" who died in lurid circumstances.

In France the privacy laws provide strict control on the release of cause of death. Whom does it benefit to know the details? His family and friends are left with the shame and embarrassment long after the cheap tabloid titillation has been forgotten.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNADETTE FORSEY,  
35 Wandale Road, SW17,  
February 9.

From Mrs Joanna Hase

Sir, Another occasion has arisen for the jackals of the tabloid press to get stirred up into a feeding frenzy. I applauded the dignity with which *The Times* has dealt with the sad business of Stephen Milligan's death, especially Libby Purves's article (February 9). Except for the accident of his death, his actions should have been nobody's concern except his own. His family and friends have my deepest sympathy.

Yours faithfully,  
J. HASE,  
Morgans, East End Road,  
Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket, Suffolk,  
February 9.

### People power

From Ms Dione Coumbe

Sir, Matthew Parris, writing (article, February 9) of the private behaviour of MPs, states that the power of elected representatives in Parliament is "almost zero". Where does this leave the electorate?

Yours faithfully,  
DIONE COUMBE,  
293 London Road, Dover, Kent,  
February 9.

### Confusing signals

From Mr G. G. Thomason

Sir, Is it too much to hope that the next buzzword will avoid the same initials as police constable, per cent, postcard, personal computer and political correctness?

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF THOMASON,  
Silverdale, 8 Cuseley Road,  
Old Windsor, Berkshire.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

### European role in US policy on Cuba

From Mr David Tate

Sir, The suggestion in your leading article, "Clinton and Castro" (February 7), that there is a need for the United States to rethink its policy towards Cuba in the light of the changed international environment, is most welcome. However, there is a growing awareness amongst many in Europe and in the Caribbean that European governments, the European Union and the European private sector may have an important role to play in this process.

At present there is a marked reluctance to engage in dialogue with Cuba unless there are clear signs of political and economic reform. However, the West India Committee believes that this is short-sighted.

A change in policy by European governments aimed at encouraging investment and joint ventures, and the provision of technical assistance, humanitarian relief, management training and scholarships will hasten such change and economic reform. Indeed, it is a process which we ought to be able to recognise from our recent experience in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Through active participation in the Cuban economic restructuring process, which may well accelerate after the next meeting of the Cuban National Assembly, Britain and its partners in Europe can prove that free enterprise is the only viable way forward while taking a leading position in a market currently denied to the Americans.

By providing support we can help the Cuban people move towards a mixed economy and political pluralism, whilst enabling them to retain the gains in education and healthcare of the last 35 years.

The European Union and in particular the United Kingdom can help

Cuba and its government undertake a successful and stable transition to a market economy. It will be in no one's interest if we allow present US policies to lead Cuba, and by association the Caribbean region, to instability and chaos.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID TATE  
(Chairman),  
West India Committee/  
Caribbean Council for Europe,  
Nelson House,  
8-9 Northumberland Street, WC2,  
February 7.

From Mr Glenn Calderwood

Sir, In saying that the embargo against Cuba must be lifted when democracy, human rights and property restitution have been addressed, you come close to restating the policy that exists at present. This would not be any kind of rethink of US policy towards Cuba. None of these things is on the agenda under Castro.

Cuban elections are fraudulent, the prisons hold at least 5,000 political prisoners, there is full censorship and the people are not allowed to emigrate. Not only does the possibility of the "Haitiisation" of Cuba rest upon the future of the embargo, so does the freedom of ten million people trapped in Castro's land that time forgot.

If the human rights and democracy policy of the current Cuban regime were so dramatically changed, there would be no supporters abroad of an embargo, even amongst the hard-liners — only Cuban exiles happy to return home.

Yours,  
GLENN CALDERWOOD  
(International Campaigns Officer),  
International Society for Human Rights,  
27 Old Gloucester Street, WC1.

### Nursing in London

From Dr and Mrs John Fry

Sir, As a past nursing sister and a medical graduate of Guy's Hospital we are concerned over a recent communication from the director of the Nightingale Institute, the new academic college for nurses.

This announces the demise not only of the Guy's Hospital nursing school, but also, those of St Thomas' and King's College Hospitals and merging them into the Nightingale Institute to be sited at King's College, London. We also see that St Thomas' is likely to replace Guy's as the main teaching hospital (report, February 9).

Our concern is not only with the loss of independence of the three nursing schools, each with a worldwide reputation, but even more with the principles behind the action.

The prime reason appears to be a desire to make nursing an academic profession and for nurses to become

equal partners in the "health care team". Nowhere in the communication is there any mention of traditional caring bedside nursing, which appears to have a secondary role to academic higher education.

These far-reaching events must be related to other NHS changes. According to the Government's Social Trends 1994 document, between 1986 and 1992 the number of hospital nurses fell by 20,900 or 4 per cent from 505,400 to 484,500; doctors went up by 6,400 or 12 per cent (52,400 to 58,800), and hospital administrators and clerical staff rose by 49,800 or 36 per cent (137,200 to 187,000).

In our view the effects of these policies should be re-examined and corrected.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN FRY,  
G. A. FRY,  
3 Kings Court, Kelsey Park Avenue,  
Beckenham, Kent,  
February 9.

### Therapy and crime

From the General Secretary,  
Association of Chief  
Officers of Probation

Sir, Janet Daley (article, February 3) envisages "punishment" as being incompatible with action intended to change an offender's behaviour. She says "the purpose of the law is to prohibit certain acts". That clearly means to change the behaviour of those who commit those acts. Most offenders who receive straightforward penal sentences do not repeat their criminal behaviour.

Mrs Daley says that a probation order requiring Patrick Weighell's attendance at a course designed to change behaviour after assaults on his infant son (reports, February 1, 2) involves "no punishment as such". Community penalties are defined primarily in terms of how much restriction of liberty they involve, as are prison sentences. There is substantial restriction of liberty in a probation order of 18 months; even more with a compulsory training course added on. The courses are designed to change behaviour.

Mrs Daley implies that seeking to change behaviour is the same as "evaluating" and restructuring personalities or reshaping people's temperaments. This is not so. Society requires

offenders to recognise their responsibilities to others and make a clear decision to change their behaviour. It will be well served if this can be achieved within the context of a coherent sentencing framework.

Yours sincerely,  
BILL WESTON,  
General Secretary,  
Association of Chief Officers  
of Probation,  
212 Whitechapel Road, E1,  
February 3.

From Mr David Simons

Sir, I am extremely dubious, as is Janet Daley, about the likely effectiveness of the "therapeutic sentence" passed on Patrick Weighell. Like many practising psychotherapists, I believe that the strongest prognostic factor in virtually any psychotherapeutic intervention is the patient's motivation. (For example, the smoker sent to see me by his spouse is far less likely to stop smoking than someone attending of his own volition.)

It takes only one psychotherapist to change a light bulb; the bulb must want to change.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID SIMONS,  
The Old Mill, Calver Road,  
Baslow, Derbyshire,  
February 3.

### Parking penalties

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, Twice in the recent past, but only after extensive correspondence with, amongst others, yourself (letter, June 23, 1992), I have succeeded in having inappropriately levied parking fines and charges withdrawn.

On each occasion the alleged offence occurred because of ambiguous or contradictory regulations instituted by the individual boroughs which control these matters in London. On one occasion the problem arose because three sides of Lincoln's Inn Fields are in Camden and the fourth in Westminster, where different restrictions apply.

Many of the frustrations and annoyances discussed in recent letters (January 29, February 3) could be eliminated, time and costs saved and traffic flow improved by a simple expedient of instituting unified parking regulations, at least for inner London.

Yours faithfully,  
ANSEL HARRIS,  
23 Ferncroft Avenue, NW3,  
February 7.

### Best bat

From Mr Michael W. Jeffels

Sir, In your leader of February 5, "Ev-er-one's first eleven", you state that Graham Gooch's 333 scored against India was the highest score by an English opening batsman in a Test match.

Oh dear, oh dear. I thought everyone knew that a 22-year-old Yorkshire batsman, by the name of Len Hutton, scored 364 against Australia at the Oval in 1938.

Yes, I do happen to have a painting of Sir Leonard Hutton over my word processor and, yes, I am a member of the Yorkshire County Club and, yes, my eldest son's second name is Leonard; but surely I am not unique in these respects.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL W. JEFFELS,  
43 Tunwells Lane,  
Great Shelford, Cambridge,  
February 5.

### Risks of benzene in air we breathe

From Dr Jeremy Vanke

Sir, I have been reading your current series, "The air you breathe", and your leading article, "Beware benzene" (February 3), with increasing interest. RAC research has shown very clearly that we have a particular vehicle emission problem, namely the so called "gross polluter".

Gross polluters are very dirty cars — one gross polluter causes around the same emissions as 40 to 50 "clean" cars and over half of vehicle-generated pollution comes from these vehicles (which make up only 10 per cent of the vehicles on the road).

They are almost without exception poorly maintained and the link between maintenance and emissions (and hence air quality) is one which is too often ignored. Targeting this group with enforcement measures for rectification could represent a very cost-efficient and effective means of reducing emissions.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY VANKE  
(Manager, Environment Affairs),  
RAC Motoring Services,  
14 Cockspur Street, SW1,  
February 3.

From Professor Anthony Seaton

Sir, Last year your readers have been alarmed by your reports and leading article (February 3) that Londoners and rural motorists, in particular, are at risk of leukaemia from venturing into the streets. I should point to a clear statement in the report, published on February 2, of the Government's independent expert panel on air quality standards, which I chair.

We said: "In recommending a running annual average of 5 parts per billion the panel recognise that current annual average concentrations of benzene to which the general public are exposed in the United Kingdom's air (which rarely exceed this concentration) present an exceedingly small risk to health."

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY SEATON,  
University of Aberdeen  
Medical School,  
Department of Environmental  
and Occupational Medicine,  
Foresterhill, Aberdeen,  
February 7.

From Dr Martin Berger

Sir, The dangers of benzene have been apparent for some decades and we now worry about parts per billion. But in our college laboratories in the 1940s we handled benzene with abandon. It is the starting point for many common aromatic derivatives and we used it as budding chemists to learn our craft.

We thus converted it in open flasks with other agents; we sucked it up pipettes by mouth to deliver accurately controlled volumes of this ideal diluent; we occasionally washed our hands with it in a boisterous mood, we squirted it at each other from wash bottles.

Most of us appear to have got off scot-free. We might well say, "There but for the grace of God..."

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN BERGER,  
7 Greenvale Drive,  
Cheadle, Cheshire.

From Ms Denise Briggs

Sir, Professor Robert Harkness proposes (letter, February 2) that more effort should be directed at identifying the causes of "respiratory distress" or asthma, in order to avoid them.

The use of "puffers" enables me to enjoy going to concerts or for a summer evening's walk, and to spend time with my friends, some of whom keep cats and I would otherwise have to avoid. I intend to live my life to the full; to control my asthma and not to let my asthma control me.

Yours sincerely,  
DENISE BRIGGS,  
36 Wisden Avenue,  
Burgess Hill, West Sussex,  
February 3.

### It's a wind-up

From Mr John Campbell-Kease

Sir, Had the caption to the photograph (February 3) of the almost empty room on display at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool not informed me that the mechanical device depicted was a "hand-turned record player", I would have sworn it was an old-fashioned wind-up gramophone.

Yours truly,  
JOHN CAMPBELL-KEASE,  
Pleck Farm House,  
Hazelbury Bryan,  
Sturminster, Newton, Dorset,  
February 4.

### Safety first

From Mrs Ba Miller

Sir, Your letters on the odd labelling of electrical devices (January 24, 27, 29, 31, February 1, 3) remind me of the red poinsettia given to me last Christmas. Included were instructions on its care and the following caution: "It is inadvisable to consume this product."

Can there be many people with a penchant for eating pot plants? Yours faithfully,  
BA MILLER,  
2 Oakdale, Mill Road,  
South Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey,  
February 5.

Business letters, page 27  
Sports letters, page 40



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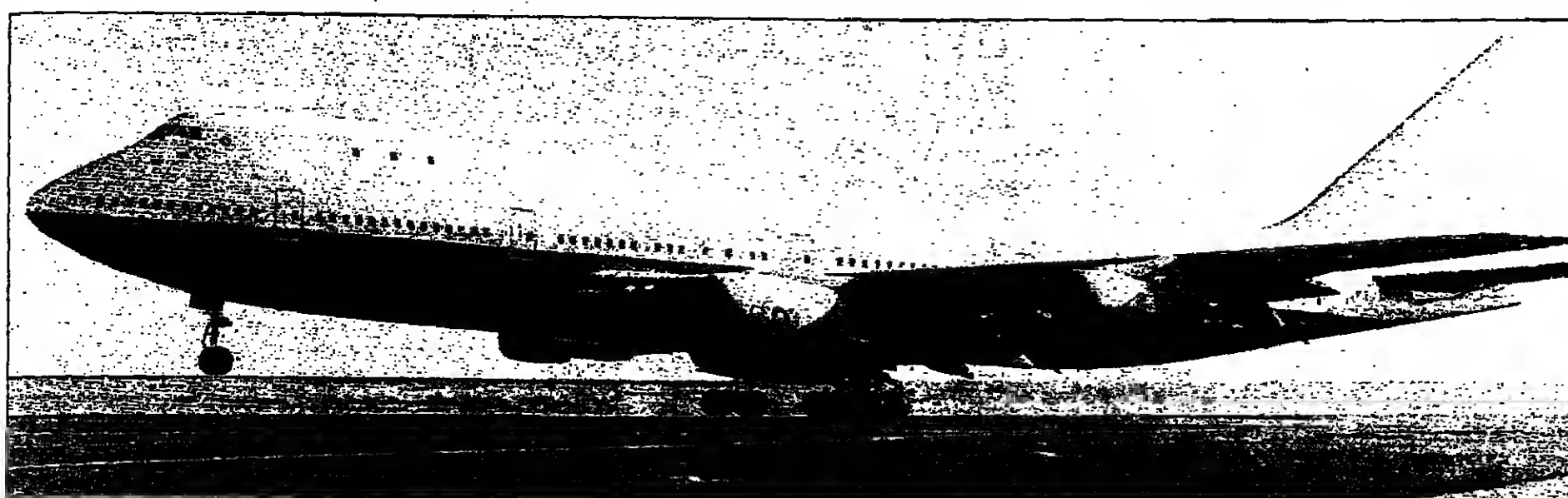
Any such action would be a severe blow to the republic, where the bloodstock industry and stud fees are estimated to bring in Ir£100m in foreign currency.







# ● Britain loses out to giants ● A flutter while you fly ● Airport row delays flights



## America takes over the skies

British Airways has played an important part in helping Boeing's new £100m jet beat off European rivals

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AMERICAN-built aircraft and engines now look certain to dominate the skies well into the next century as Boeing, General Electric and Pratt & Whitney take on European manufacturers in the booming market for long-range twin-engine jets.

Last week's decision by JAL, the Japanese carrier, to buy Pratt & Whitney engines to power its fleet of 20 Boeing 777s underlined the difficulty of the British and European aerospace industry's battle to compete with the American giants.

Rolls-Royce had been hoping to persuade the Japanese to fit the new Trent engine to the 777 but failed to win the £226 million order partly because all Japanese airlines have now taken Pratt engines and will set up one maintenance unit for them, but largely because of the political pressure America can bring to bear on Asian countries.

With airlines around the world losing money heavily, long-range twins are the only type of plane selling well, even with their £100 million price tag. The main reason for their success is the development of new engines whose diameter is as big as the fuselage of a Boeing 737, each of which is twice as powerful as those now used on jumbo jets — and many times more reliable. The engines can power a plane-load of 450 passengers over routes of up to 7,000 miles.

At the end of the 1980s, it seemed that Airbus, the European plane-making consortium, would sweep all before it in the race for just such a plane with its A350 and A340 family of aircraft. Then, in 1990, Boeing announced that it was going ahead with the new long-range twin-engine 777.

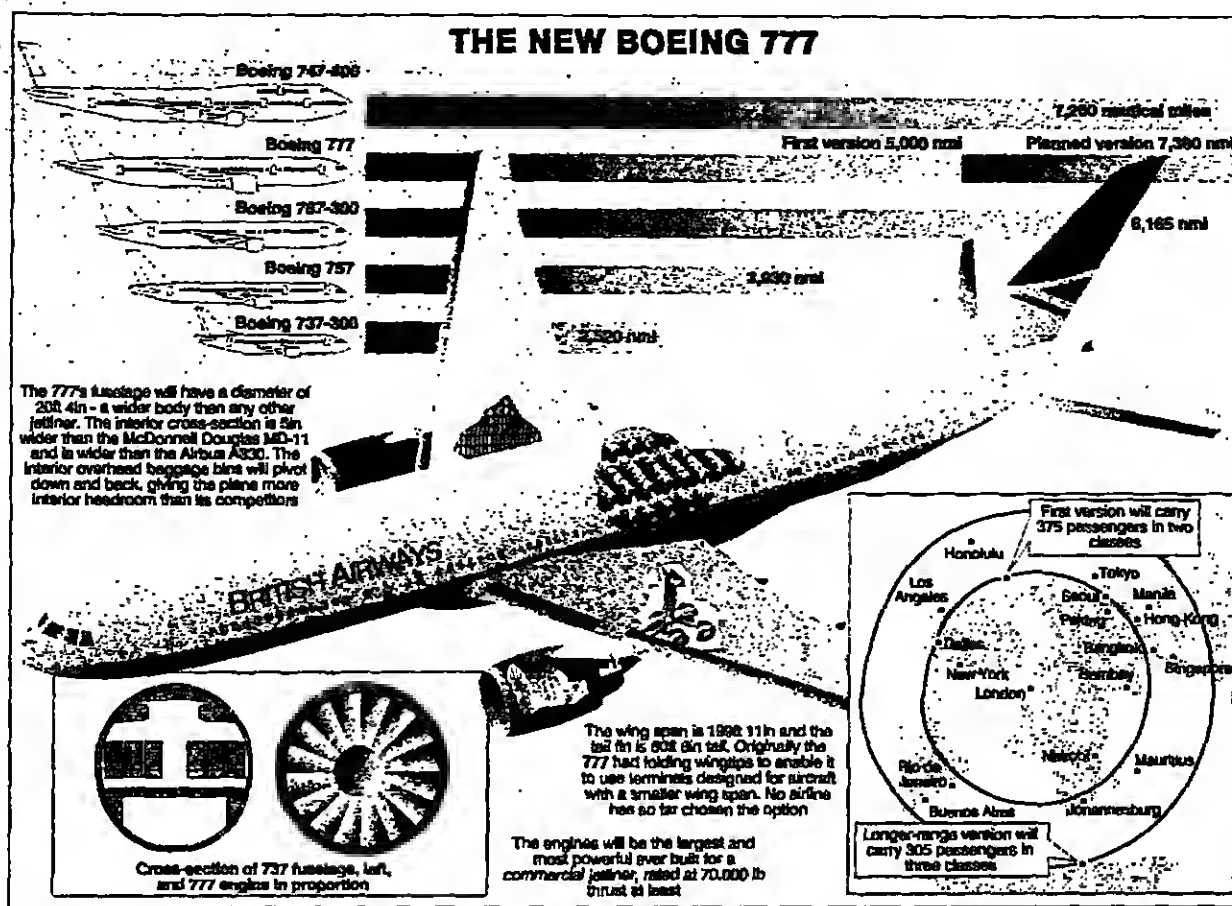
Since then, 147 of the planes — 80 per cent of the market — have been ordered. Both Boeing and General Electric, with their GE90 engine, have based their sales campaign on what, to the largely conservative aero industry, was considered a novel idea — bringing in the customer to help in the detailed design right from the start to iron out problems before the plane or the engine was even built.

It was one of the reasons that British Airways, to the fury of Airbus and Rolls-Royce, decided to buy 15 777s and take another 15 options, and power them with GE engines. Since they signed the order, teams of BA engineers have worked alongside Boeing and GE to help produce the first passenger jet designed around the needs of the most humble of airport mechanics. Maintenance men, earning about £15,000 a year and whose job is normally to replace broken parts, were whisked from the engineering workshops of Heathrow and Gatwick to the Boeing headquarters in Seattle and asked to help in the design of the 777 and the GE90.

BA, which is spending £2.2 billion on up to 30 of the new long-range jets, plans to turn the aircraft into the workhorse of its fleet into the next century. As a result of the constraints by BA, Boeing has changed the layout of hundreds of components to enable even the clumsiest mechanic to change them easily.

The 777 is Boeing's first "paperless" aeroplane. It was decided by computer after everyone who would have to use it had had their say in how it should be done.

The concept originally shocked Boeing designers,



Top: a Boeing 747 being used to test a new GE90 engine, which has the same diameter as the fuselage of a 737

who had been accustomed to "throwing drawings over the fence" for the assembly workers to pick up and turn into a product which they hoped airlines would buy.

Phil Condit, Boeing's president, said: "We were determined that this should not happen with the 777 and we invited the main airline customers, such as British Airways, to work with us all the way through the design process."

So much detailed work has been put into the jet in advance that it will fly for the first time on June 1 without a wooden mock-up being built to ensure that everything fits together.

The first 777s will be delivered to United Airways — which has also taken part in the "working together" experiment — in May next year with BA taking its first aircraft four months later.

The GE90, claimed by its makers to be the world's most powerful jet engine, has also been designed with the help of BA, who have had a team of engineers permanently based at the GE factory near Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ironically, therefore, British Airways is indirectly helping some of Britain's biggest aero-industry rivals to build a plane and the engines to power it which will replace the TriStars, DC10s and older 747s already flying, of which around 3,000 will be built over the next 25 years.

## Airlines take a gamble on flying 'casinos'

By CHRIS LOCKWOOD

A ROW over gambling in the sky is blocking airport and air traffic control improvements worth more than £1 billion and threatening to thwart plans by airlines to introduce video gaming as a new form of in-flight entertainment.

United States senators are to vote within the next few weeks on an issue that has revived a peculiarly American attitude to public morality and which must be cleared before the government can release \$1.8 billion for the upgrade of the nation's air transport infrastructure.

The money was raised by a 10 per cent airline ticket tax levied on the strict condition that it would be ploughed back into the industry. For one reason or another (mostly linked to the parlous state of the US budget), the fund has been frozen for years.

The latest controversy threatening further delay to the release of that fund started last autumn when Senator Richard Bryan of Nevada proposed that American airlines should be allowed to offer gambling in flight.

Now that plan has been opposed by Senator Slade Gorton of Washington, who is urging a ban on all forms of airborne gaming affecting all airlines operating services in American airspace.

If that prohibition comes into effect, it will force Virgin Atlantic and Singapore Airlines to rethink their plans to introduce flying "casinos" as an option on new video entertainment programmes. Although details are not yet final, Virgin intends to offer video roulette and blackjack games as part of a £13 million upgrade of in-flight entertainment services. Initially, gambling would be offered on Airbus A340 Virgin flights to Hong Kong and Tokyo, which are due to start this spring. Passengers would place bets

by using a credit card "swipe" unit attached to individual, in-seat video sets.

Singapore is studying a similar system as part of its own £54 million investment in cabin management and interactive passenger video programmes. Both carriers are unperturbed by prospects of an American ban on airborne punters, pointing out that if it becomes law they will merely block off that particular channel from passenger access.

There would be little impact on US gambling, charter flights that ferry high-rollers to casinos in the Bahamas such as those operated by Sir Freddie Laker from a wide range of American cities. Such flights are only for known high-stake gamblers, but the actual betting takes place at tables on the ground.

The fact that the issue has been raised at all reflects a stand by America's so-called Moral Majority in a nation where legalised gambling is spreading rapidly.

Although Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, were the original home bases of legal gaming in the US, there are now lotteries in 37 states and casinos in 15, including riverboats and Indian reservations.

Many Americans consider the proposed ban to be a throwback to the 1970s when a surge of states' individual rights created such extremes as a threat by Oklahoma to send up the state National Air Guard to force down airliners serving drinks as they flew over its "dry" territory. Like that moment of moral madness, say federal aviation officials, the idea of a gambling ban is also destined to disappear.

Meanwhile, Virgin and Singapore will press ahead with gaming options, especially on services to the betting-mad Far East. Other carriers are certain to follow suit.

## Paris flights held up by the French

By STEVE KEENAN

THREE airlines planning to launch regular services between Heathrow and Orly airport, Paris, are unlikely to be able to start in time for the busy summer schedules.

British Airways, British Midland and Air France have all applied to operate to the second airport of Paris, which would give them, they claim, a competitive edge over trains running through the Channel tunnel.

The planned launch of the service is March 27 or 28 — the day Air France axes services from Southampton and Bristol to Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris. But the opening of the Orly service looks as though it will be delayed because other

French carriers have yet to submit plans for international flights.

The French equivalent of the Civil Aviation Authority says it is unable to give the go-ahead at this stage and will not be able to sort out the problems until mid-February at least. All three airlines want to start Orly services as soon as possible — certainly ahead of the Eurostar tunnel train link due to start in June or July. Eurostar expects 40 per cent of revenue to come from business users — who will make up only 15 per cent of passengers. Its service from Waterloo, London, to Paris will take three hours ten minutes, but Orly provides air passengers with easier access to the La Defense business district than Charles de Gaulle airport.

British Airways, which plans four flights a day to Orly, will cut two of its flights between Heathrow and Charles de Gaulle. The move to Orly is a potential money-spinner for BA, which owns 49 per cent of TAT, a French regional carrier that in turn has an extensive domestic network from Orly. It is also important for Air France, which has 48 onward connections throughout France with Air Inter, a sister airline.

British Midland plans four daily services to Orly, as well as its eight to Charles de Gaulle. The chairman, Sir Michael Bishop, in a clear reference to Eurostar, said: "The new route strengthens our portfolio of cross-Channel services and is a clear indication of our approach to competition in any form."

## Volcano proof

VOLCANIC eruptions, which release millions of tons of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere, are responsible for a big increase in the number of "crazed" aircraft cabin windows. Once damaged in this way, the windows have to be replaced, and expensively.

Now scientists working for Pilkington Aerospace, an American subsidiary of the British glass-making company, have discovered a method of coating the windows to

make them impervious to the acid attack.

## Air smiles

BRITAIN'S 37 commercial airlines shared a £4 million windfall this month as the Civil Aviation Authority handed back excess profits. It is the first time that the CAA has been able to make the payment which, it says, was possible because of stringent cost-cutting by the authority.

The CAA shared its extra cash on a pro rata basis, with British Airways receiving the lion's share.



Sir John: royal talks

Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, has already had to try to explain the advantages to one local resident whose support would almost guarantee the project's success.

Apart from a raised eyebrow, however, the Queen, whose home at Windsor is uncomfortably close to the western end of the runways,

has not formally revealed which side she will be on.

## Price war

LUTON airport has complained to the European Commission about BAA's alleged "cross subsidisation" of Stansted by Heathrow and the anti-competitive pricing policy at the Essex airport. Luton claims it has lost holiday traffic, scheduled services and cargo operations because Stansted is able to offer low charges to airlines.

## Appointment

IN OUR report on the forthcoming Queen's tour of the West Indies last week, we incorrectly stated that Britain had appointed a new police commissioner of Jamaica. The appointment was, in fact, made by the Jamaican government.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

## Plane speaking

THE impending clash between proponents of and objectors to plans to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow airport has all the signs of being one of the most tempestuous debates about aviation policy.

## First class on the way out

By MIKE SWINDELL

LEADING airlines are rethinking the services they offer as the first-class travel market continues to shrink. American Airlines is the latest to bow to market forces and do away with first class on three transatlantic routes — two out of the UK and one from Paris.

It joins KLM, Sabena, Northwest Airlines, Continental Airlines and SAS, which have all dispensed with first class, either on specific routes or system-wide. In Britain, first-class cabins have been stripped from services to regional ports, such as Glasgow and Manchester. Even British Airways, which argues for the continuing need for first class,

last year launched services to Los Angeles and New York out of Manchester and Birmingham with Boeing 767s that have only business and economy class cabins. However, London has been spared, apart from Virgin Atlantic, which has never offered a first-class cabin, and Continental Airlines.

Recession has taught companies and independent travellers the need for economy: an American Express study showed that almost 70 per cent of British businesses surveyed had recently taken initiatives to cut travel spending.

Paul Allari, the Guild of Business Travel Agents chairman, said: "In the recession, we lost many of our first and

business class travellers." Richard Lovell, managing director of the Wagonlit agency, believes that the lessons learnt by companies during the recession and a changing business ethos will sound the death knell for first-class travel on most international routes. "There will always be a few routes, such as those to the Middle East and Far East, where you will find people willing to pay a premium," he said. "But first class is declining."

British Airways insists that first class will remain, at least on some routes. A BA spokesman said: "There will always be people who want the best. We are doing well with first class."

## THE TIMES READER OFFER: SPEND EASTER ON LAKE GENEVA

### A relaxing musical interlude

Relax for four days on Lake Geneva, April 1-4, 1994 for just £695 per person

Enjoy a relaxing long weekend of music and culture in Geneva this Easter with The Times. Readers will be staying at the luxury Hotel Intercontinental with views across Lake Geneva towards Mont Blanc.

The weekend includes chamber concerts given by the Salieri Chamber Orchestra of works by Mozart and Haydn; two lectures on life in Vienna during the lifetimes of the two composers; a trip to Annecy in France and time to explore Geneva's old town.

On Friday there will be an introduction to the weekend by H.C. Robbins London followed by a concert of two trios for flute, piano and cello by Haydn and two trios for violin, piano and cello by Mozart. After the concert there will be a welcome reception at the hotel.

On Saturday there will be a visit to Annecy with lunch in a fish restaurant. The old town is dominated by a twelfth century castle on the edge of Lake Annecy. Around the lake are fairytale castles, abbeys and ancient towns. In the afternoon the lecture will be followed by a concert of two quartets for piano and strings by Mozart and Haydn's Divertimento in E flat major for piano, violin, cello and two horns.

On Sunday morning there



In Geneva: wander through the streets of the old town and sail across the lake



will be a concert held at the Chapelle des Cornillons in Chambéry with Mozart's two quartets from a set of six dedicated to Joseph Haydn; Quartet in C major — 'The Dissonance' and Quartet in D minor. In the afternoon there is time to explore the city. The old town is beautifully preserved with cobbled streets and squares and the cathedral which dates back to the 12th century. After the evening concert of Haydn's Four concerti for the King of Naples (1786) there will be a Gala Dinner.

A morning farewell concert will take place on Monday with Haydn's Cassation (Divertimento) in D minor and Mozart's Divertimento in D major. March in D minor: Serenata Notturna for strings in D major. The afternoon is for exploring more of the old town of Geneva.

The price of £695 per person, with a single room supplement of £80 and insur-

ance premium of £20, includes flights, accommodation, buffet breakfasts, one reception, two dinners, one brunch, excursion to Annecy, entrance to all concerts and lectures and a tour manager.

For further details or to

reserve places on the Easter House Party in Geneva please telephone Travel for the Arts on 071-483 4466 or complete the coupon below.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please return to Travel for the Arts, 117 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 8UR.

Please provisionally reserve place(s) on AN EASTER HOUSE PARTY IN GENEVA (1-4 April 1994) and hold on option for 72 hours.

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Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel (Daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_  
Double room \_\_\_\_\_ Twin Room \_\_\_\_\_ Single room \_\_\_\_\_  
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## THE TIMES TRAVELEX CURRENCY CALL SERVICE

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Holland	2.81 Fl
Italy	2.429 L
Japan	156.50 Y
S Arabia	5.44 SR
Spain	202.50 Pta
Switzerland	2.12 Sfr
USA	1.44 \$



## NEWS

## British general brokers deal

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, Britain's United Nations commander in Bosnia, helped to pull off a coup yesterday, negotiating a ceasefire between the warring sides in Sarajevo and persuading the Serbs to withdraw their heavy guns from the fringes of the city.

The ceasefire, which takes effect at midday today, should bring relief to a city wracked by 22 months of war and human tragedy on a scale not seen in Europe since the Second World War. Pages 1, 12

## Prime Minister talks of MP's torment

The Prime Minister spoke of the inner torment of Stephen Milligan. Questioned on a visit to the Midlands about the MP's death, John Major said that he "must have been pretty unhappy, pretty miserable". Page 1

## Major on offensive

John Major dismissed renewed talk of a challenge to his leadership as "empty chatterings" and regretted the "distractions" blurring the Government's good news on the economy. Page 1

## Policeman stabbed

A lone unarmed police sergeant was stabbed to death as he tackled three masked men trying to escape from a post office raid. Pages 1, 3

## Oscar contenders

Emma Thompson, Anthony Hopkins and Daniel Day-Lewis led a strong showing from the British film industry as the nominations for the Oscar awards were announced. Page 1

## Ban overturned

A ban by Somerset County Council on the Quantock Stag hounds was overturned by a High Court judge, who said the authority acted unlawfully. Page 4

## School threatened

Summerhill school — a fee-paying bastion of optional lessons and mixed nude swimming — has been given two months to answer a critical report by government inspectors. Page 6

## Video markings

The video games industry has introduced a cinema-style ratings system to give guidance on the violence and sex contained in their products. Page 7

## Nelson claim dismissed hands down

The world of postal history has been rocked by a case involving the left-handed Admiral Lord Nelson, his right-handed brother and a 19th-century envelope. One of the country's leading stamp and envelope dealers has been fined £3,000 by magistrates after wrongly claiming that signatures on two envelopes belonged to Horatio Nelson. Page 3

## Commons on hold

Labour's guerrilla tactics brought the work of a select committee to a halt, and Opposition leaders threatened to "shut down the Commons within days" by blocking legislation. Page 8

## Berlusconi hitch

Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian media mogul, hit a snag in his campaign to become Prime Minister when his brother was accused of bribing bankers. Page 10

## Talks impasse

Talks between the South African government, the African National Congress and the Freedom Alliance broke up without agreement. Page 11

## Turkish plea

Sir Leon Brittan will be asked to pay £4 billion when meets Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, today. Turkey is demanding this sum for bringing down its last tariff barriers with the European Union. Page 10

## Middle East drive

Marathon talks aimed at achieving a partial deal on obstacles to Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza have been stepped up. Page 13

## Shredding denied

Hillary Clinton's former law firm denied reports that it had shredded documents about the First Couple's investment in the White-water firm. Page 13



The Prince of Wales sheltering from the rain yesterday during a walk in the Lake Kaniere forest in New Zealand. Report, page 2

**Economy:** The pound suffered its second day of heavy selling as investors expressed unease about the motives behind Tuesday's interest rate cut. Page 23

**Taxes:** Britain's recovery will not be halted by April's tax increases, Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI said, adding that the recovery had spread to all mainland regions. Page 23

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 Index fell 11.1 points to close at 3429.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 81.5 to 80.8 after a drop from \$1.4702 to \$1.4608 and DM2.5952 to DM2.5098. Page 23

**Cricket:** Chris Lewis's chances of playing in the first Test match against West Indies were diminished when he was left out of today's warm-up match against Barbados. Page 44

**Olympic Games:** A Norwegian cross-country skier, Vegard Ulvang, publicly criticised Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee. Page 40

**Rugby Union:** Rob Andrew shrugged off criticism of his remarks on the Scotland-England match and suggestions about the final penalty. Pages 44, 40

**Real presence:** One of the world's most famous intellectuals, George Steiner, is going back to the university that snubbed him. Matthew D'Ancona reports. Page 14

**Hot oil:** A row has broken out in the health food shops. Nigel Hawkes on the dispute over evening primrose oil. Page 15

**Post-Victorian values:** Peter Ackroyd says there are no basics to go back to. Plus: Ian McIntyre on Sandy Gall's memoirs and Lucy Hughes-Hallett on Fay Weldon's shrines. Pages 36, 37

**Courtroom controversy:** Jim Sheridan's Guildford Four film, *In the Name of the Father*, opens in London tomorrow. "It offers no political harangue, but an emotional story about ordinary folk," says Geoff Brown. Page 33

**How I drew Picasso:** The Times's art critic, Richard Cork, recalls the day when he encountered Picasso in a Cannes café, and drew the great artist. Then Picasso returned the compliment. Page 35

**Balzac on the boards:** A 300-page slice of Balzac's *Comédie Humaine* has been brought to the London stage. Page 34

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

## Crisis at the opera

How will English National Opera overcome the financial and artistic difficulties that threaten to erase memories of its glory-days in the late 1980s?

## Monte Carlo or bust

How intrepid is intrepid? Kevin Eason on the 160 amateurs re-creating the adventure of motoring in its most glamorous years, the Monte Carlo rally

## Programmed to tackle crime

In the leafy suburbs of Cambridgeshire, neighbourhood watch schemes are using computers in the battle against crime

More than 1,600 Greek Cypriots went missing when Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974. Attempts to trace their whereabouts are examined in *Secret History* (Channel 4, 9pm). Page 43

## Dog days with Deng

Deng Xiaoping's appearance on television is more likely to concentrate Chinese minds on his demise than bolster assurances of his good health. Page 17

## Gould the goad

Bryan Gould is leaving Parliament. The Labour Party will be the poorer for the loss of his eclectic, if erratic, dissent. Page 17

## The mulch of love

The transplantation of *Gardeners' Question Time* from Radio 4 to Classic FM is a major blow to conventional wisdom. Page 17

## ANTHONY HOWARD

Bryan Gould, the former diplomat, don and interviewer, was not cut out for combat. Page 16

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

John Major is not a leader of strong imagination or charismatic appeal, and the party has exhausted its sense of mission. Page 16

Witold Lutoslawski, composer and conductor; Benny Cowburn, a wartime agent of the Special Operations Executive; Richard Bissell, the CIA official behind the Bay of Pigs invasion. Page 19

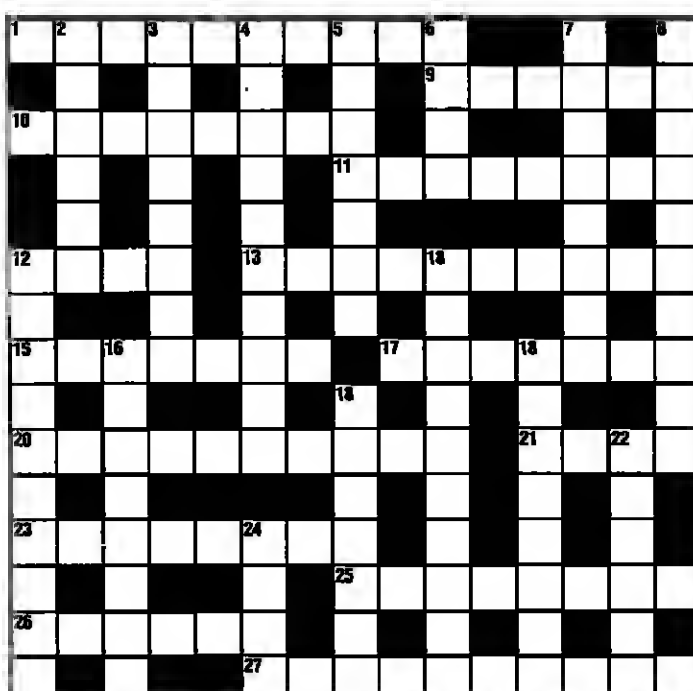
The need for a European role in policy over Cuba. Page 17

## THE PERSPECTIVE

If the West really wanted to do something to relieve Sarajevo, it would repeal the misconceived arms embargo and throw support behind the Bosnian forces, doing it not through the tangled web of the United Nations, but through Nato. — *The Wall Street Journal*

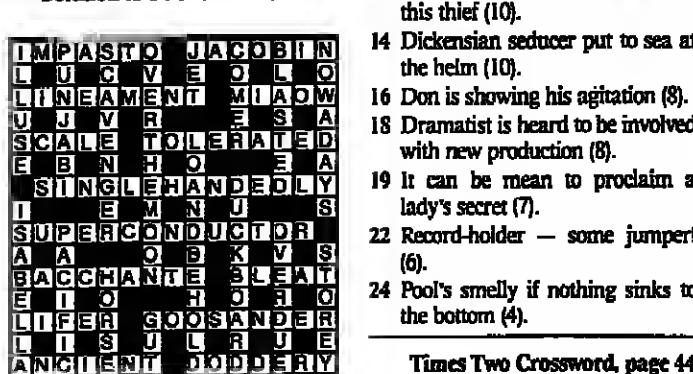
One must realise that an immense country [Russia]... is in the process of reappearing. Moreover, it is a good thing. Such an enormous emptiness was, in the long term, a cause of fear. In astrophysics, it is called a black hole. Something which can provoke a series of catastrophes. — *Le Figaro*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,462



- ACROSS**
- Bring order to main prison (10).
  - Saw the first of Alpine peaks (6).
  - Animal's return after liberation revealed in book (8).
  - Italian artist and architect inspire a transformation (8).
  - Remove outer protection of fortified tower (4).
  - Dish featured in magazine is a sort of tart (10).
  - Accountant sounds warning for US partnership (7).
  - To carry on some papers is tough (7).
  - Old fashioned port is disregarded (6,4).
  - Like a piece of cake — alternatively, last of pie, say? (4).
- DOWN**
- Crime writer who deals in what's wicked? (8).
  - A poet's contracts (8).
  - Sent abroad English team under guidance (6).
  - Unstinting author writing in dictionary (4-6).
  - Each bishop, for example, takes a book of services to church (6).
  - Regal circle is assembled in the old palace (8).
  - Quarrelled with spiteful woman in changed circumstances (10).
  - Second lid or bung for container (7).
  - Leader of Muslim's put in appearance here (4).
  - Display American volume at one assembly of scholars (8).
  - He provided innovative style, obviously (10).
  - It's best on an isolated patch for this thief (10).
  - Dickensian seducer put to sea at the helm (10).
  - Don is showing his agitation (8).
  - Dramatist is heard to be involved with new production (8).
  - It can be mean to proclaim a lady's secret (7).
  - Record-holder — some jumper (6).
  - Pool's smelly if nothing sinks to the bottom (4).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,461



Times Two Crossword, page 44

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
West/Surrey/Sussex	702
Doncaster & IDW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	705
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	706
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	707
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Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	726
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	727
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	728
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	729
Wiltshire/Gloucestershire	730

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Area	Forecast
Area within M25	731
East/West/Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	732
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	733
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	734
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	735
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	736
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	737
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	738
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Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	743
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	744
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	745
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	746
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	747
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	748
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	749
Doncaster/Barnsley/Doncaster	750

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 10C (50F); lowest day temp: Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire, 4C (39F); highest night temp: Penzance, 0.4C; highest sunrise: Folkestone, 0.7C.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

**General:** England and Wales will start bright with a widespread frost away from the east coast.

Almost everywhere will have a dry day with sunny periods, although there will be a shower or two in eastern England.

Cloud will spread into the South West during the morning, with rain reaching southwest Wales and Northern Ireland by evening. Scotland will be mainly dry and bright.

**London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Central North, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** early frost. Mainly dry with sunny periods. Wind northwesterly light. Max 6-8C (43-46F).

**E Anglia, E England, NE**

**England, Aberdeen:** occasional showers. Wind northwesterly moderate to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

**Channel Isles, S Wales, N Ireland:** bright start. Cloud increasing in afternoon. Light rain by evening. Wind variable and light. Max 8C (46F).

**SW England:** cloud increasing, light rain by afternoon. Wind becoming southerly light. Max 9C (48F).

**N Wales, Isle of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland:** bright start. Cloud by evening. Wind variable and light. Max 6-8C (43-46F).

**Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy and bright. Wind northerly fresh, becoming southerly light. Max 6C (43F).

**Outlook:** becoming colder, with wintry showers in the east.

Midday: b=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=fog; s=sun; st=stale; an=anvil; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain; h=halt; du=du; g=gale; sh=show; b=bright

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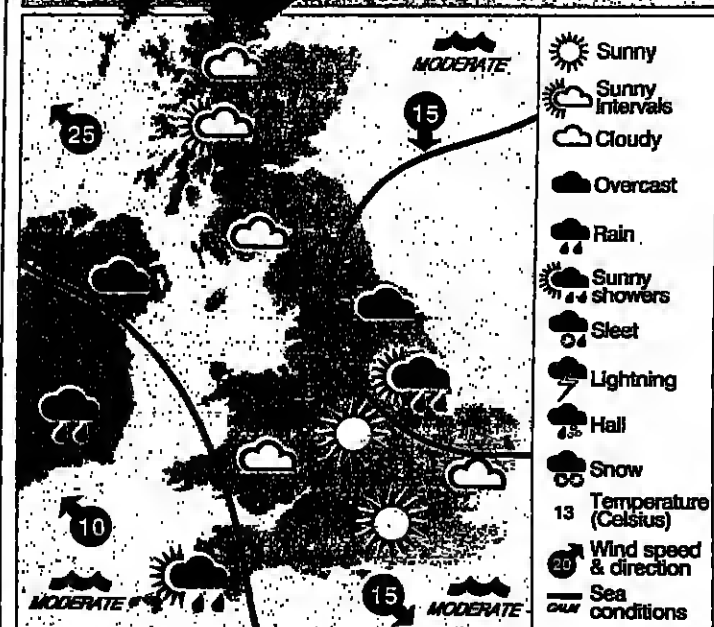
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## THE TIMES TODAY







ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

Stock markets can relax, but the Chancellor can't



BOOKS 36, 37

Nicholson Baker unmasked, by Rachel Cusk



SPORT 38-44

Play The Times 1st XI game today

DAY-LEWIS'S IRISH TRIUMPH Arts 33-35

# THE TIMES

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10 1994

## Carsberg in direct approach to banks

BY PATRICIA TREAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR Bryan Carsberg, the fair-trade watchdog, is to go direct to banks and building societies to try to persuade them to give their customers "best advice" after their revised code of practice failed to call for it.

Sir Bryan, Director-General of Fair Trading, is angry that banks and building societies "wasted an opportunity" to increase consumer protection this week when the British Bankers' Association, the Building Societies' Association and the Association for Payment Clearing Services published code revisions.

The voluntary code, accepted by 298 banks and societies, is the second edition of guidelines that came into force two years ago. A committee headed by Sir George Blunden began to review it last March. Sir Bryan last summer told the committee that banks and societies should give "best advice" to clients "increasingly being offered a myriad of financial products, particularly as banks move further into life insurance, with or without links to mortgages, investments and pensions".

A spokeswoman for the Office of Fair Trading said yesterday that "very little of what was recommended has been taken on-board".

Sir Bryan has refused to let the matter rest. The OFT has therefore decided "that the only way now is to approach the individual banks and building societies".

The OFT spokeswoman said that societies and banks were not acting illegally and Sir Bryan could not make them comply. However, "the feeling is that customers are not getting a good deal and not getting best advice".

The OFT particularly wants "best advice" to be offered on mortgage products, not covered by the Financial Services Act, unlike other investments.

Pennington, page 25



Kenneth Clarke being greeted by Jean-Claude Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France, left, at the bank's Paris headquarters yesterday

## Sterling hit by unease over interest rate cut

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING suffered its second day of heavy selling as investors expressed deep unease about the motives behind Tuesday's quarter-point interest rate cut and the apparent contradictions in official explanations for the move.

Since the Bank of England signalled the cut, the pound has lost more than four pence against the mark, or 1.5 per cent of its value. It closed yesterday at DM2.5698 compared with DM2.6150 before the policy change.

Foreign exchange dealers said that investors were concerned, not about the cut itself — a quarter point cut would not normally have such a negative impact on the currency — but about its timing. Mark Geddes, treasury economist at Midland Global Markets, said there is perception that the cut was politically, rather than economically, motivated.

A measure of the cynicism came from John Shepperd, chief economist at Yamaichi International Europe. "Political scandals may not have an impact on interest rate policy but the timing of this cut is certainly regarded as unfortunate."

Neither recent economic statistics nor statements by the Chancellor or Bank of England appeared, even yesterday, properly to justify a cut in interest rates at this stage. On the same morning base rates were cut, Kenneth Clarke told *Le Figaro* that his 2.5 per cent growth forecast for this year is

looking "more and more modest". Yesterday saw publication of the Bank's *Inflation Report*, which said that underlying inflation would be at around 3 per cent by the end of next year and that the risks were on the upside.

This projection came despite the fact that the Bank said that the inflation performance since the last report in November had been better than expected and therefore that any subsequent rise in inflation would start from a lower base.

Mr Shepperd of Yamaichi said that sterling investors would have been less worried if the authorities had argued that a rate cut was necessary because, for example, impending tax increases would dent growth and cut inflationary pressures. There is plenty of

support in the City for cutting interest rates to as low as 4 per cent for this reason.

But the official message yesterday was that growth may be more robust than expected at Budget time and there are upside risks on inflation. "People are asking what the hidden agenda is. If political pressures are having a bearing, what suffers is the long-term inflation outlook," Mr Shepperd said.

Another commonly held view in the markets is that the quarter point cut was a compromise after disagreement on policy between the Bank and the Chancellor. The Bank is believed to have opposed a half point cut. Economists expressed concern about the apparent contradictions in reasons given for the move.

Mr Clarke said that the decision was taken because the inflation outlook had improved and not because of concern about the potential impact of tax increases on the recovery. But the Bank said both were factors.

The UK government bond closed down another 1/2 point. On the stock market, the FTSE 100 fell around 36.5 points, before ending 11.1 lower at 3,429.1.

Sterling's trade weighted index closed at 80.8 against its finish on Tuesday at 81.5. Mr Clarke told a Paris news conference that the debate over whether to make the Bank of England independent could go on for a long time.

Pennington, page 25  
Economic View, page 27

## O'Reilly says full bid is an option

BY MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TONY O'Reilly, the Irish publisher who has almost 25 per cent of the company that produces *The Independent* newspaper, has said a full bid remains an option although he would prefer to stay a minority shareholder.

The statement was forced by the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers after incorrect reports in the press that Mr O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers group had no wish to seek 100 per cent control of Newspaper Publishing, which publishes *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*.

Mr O'Reilly's group "strongly prefers" its involvement with Newspaper Publishing to be as a minority shareholder but "does not wish to be thought to have so restricted its options for developing its relationship with NP for the future," the statement said.

Liam Healey, chief executive of Independent Newspapers, said: "It means that we would be free to make a bid for *The Independent* if we wanted to."

On Tuesday, Mirror Group Newspapers, whose £55.05 million offer for the two papers was superseded by the dawn raid that netted Mr O'Reilly 24.99 per cent, said it might increase its consortium bid, raising the prospect of an all-out takeover battle.

Last night, the Spanish shareholders in *The Independent* flew two National Union of Journalists representatives from the company to Madrid for talks.

Meanwhile, Mr O'Reilly's group has branched out further, with the £120 million (£18.86 million) purchase of a controlling 31 per cent stake in Argus Newspapers in South Africa. In due course, the company will be listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, with Independent Newspapers retaining its stake. Argus publishes more than four million papers a week.

BUSINESS EDITOR  
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

OVER THERE



Center Parcs is looking to expand from Britain and Europe into the home of the summer camp, the north east of the United States  
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OVERHAUL

Jaguar, now owned by Ford, continued to run deeply in the red last year, clocking up losses of \$371 million against \$421 million  
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OVERCAST



Owners Abroad

Owners Abroad. Britain's No.2 holiday company, suffered a sharp fall in profits despite keeping its independence  
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OVER HERE

Merger policy is inadequate to protect British interests and foreign acquisitions may hurt the United Kingdom economy  
Page 24

## Rising taxes will not halt recovery, claims CBI

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S economic recovery will not be halted by forthcoming tax increases, Howard Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry said last night.

The CBI added that the recovery in manufacturing industry had spread to all mainland regions of the United Kingdom.

The CBI's upbeat analysis of the economy was tempered by a warning from Mr Davies that the economy might not grow as rapidly as it had been as a result of the tax rises that are due to come into force next month.

The CBI leader said that a study of past large tax rises did not suggest that a slowing down in consumer spending was inevitable, if the savings ratio fell.

Giving the biennial Bridge Lecture in the City, Mr Davies said the Government would be advised to reduce interest

rates "a little further" this year, especially if the exchange rate strengthened or there was some adverse effect on confidence from the tax rises.

Mr Davies's remarks came after the confederation's latest regional breakdown of its authoritative industrial trends survey indicated that the recovery in manufacturers' orders has now spread to all mainland regions of the United Kingdom for the first time since the start of the recession.

Apart from Northern Ireland, the CBI's survey showed that total orders rose in all regions, with the largest increases in Yorkshire, the South East, Scotland and Wales. Business optimism is also up in all regions, while output has risen in eight areas of the UK.

Overall demand and output are also expected to rise further in all mainland regions over the next four months. But the survey shows that manu-

facturing employment is still falling in all regions, except Scotland. Though the rate of job losses has eased, only in East Anglia is it forecast to increase in the next four months.

Job losses are forecast to be especially acute in the South East, where the CBI estimates that a further 16,000 jobs will be lost alone in manufacturing industry in the first quarter of this year. However, despite the still gloomy job prospects, the survey's findings prompted optimistic views of the economy.

Richard Holt of Business Strategies, the regional economics consultancy with which the confederation's survey is jointly produced, said that the recovery was "widening and deepening" in its regional coverage and that there was "no evidence from the survey of anything which is likely to trip up the recovery in the short term."



Maverick voice: Kate Barker of Ford is moving to the CBI

## Six men and a problem

THE Chancellor, is facing a problem over the Treasury's "seven wise men" — its team of independent advisory economists — after the CBI yesterday announced that Kate Barker, head of economics at Ford of Europe, is to be its own chief economic adviser (Philip Bassett writes).

Ms Barker, 36, who is responsible at Ford for monitoring and projecting macro-economic trends and vehicle demand across Europe, will replace Andrew Sentance, who gave up his place on the Chancellor's advisory team when he moved from the CBI to the London Business School, which already has a representative on the group.

When the group was set up by Norman Lamont, Mr Clarke's predecessor, the Treasury stressed places were by invitation only and were not "held" by the organisations from which the economists came, which include a range of City and academic institutions, and the CBI.

But the group, which presents regular economic forecasts to the Chancellor, has not taken on anyone else to replace Mr Sentance, and the Treasury said yesterday there were "no plans to bring in anyone else at the present."





Ms Barker worked at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research before joining Ford in 1983. She is married with two children and is a respected industrial economist, and a member of the Treasury's separate advisory panel of economists from industry, and of the advisory panel of women economists set up by the *Guardian* newspaper to shadow — and embarrass — the all-male "seven wise men".

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LONDON CLOSING PRICES			MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 26, SHARE PRICES PAGE 29		



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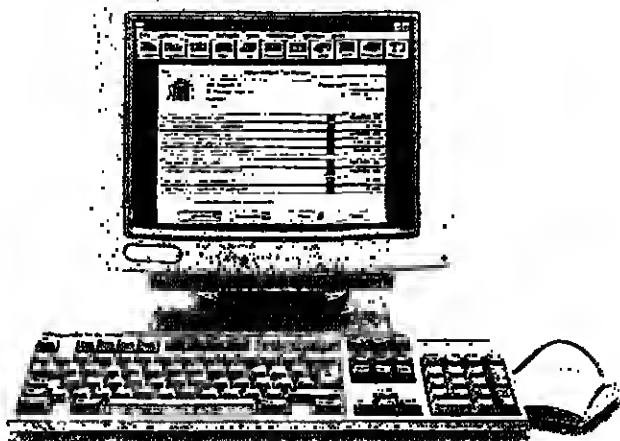
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# Chatset under fire over advice to accept Lloyd's settlement

BY SARAH BAGNALL  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

**■ In offering advice to names on how to vote on the Lloyd's offer Chatset is changing its stance. The analyst has a proven track record on forecasting Lloyd's results**

CHATSET, the Lloyd's analyst, has been criticised for crossing the divide between offering independent analysis and subjective advice to names.

On Tuesday, Chatset released its forecasts for 1991 losses accompanied by an editorial comment, which contained the advice that names should accept the Lloyd's £900 million settlement offer. The editorial stated: "There would be winners and losers from rejection of the offer. We believe there would be far more losers than winners. Our advice would be to take what is on offer and be grateful for small mercies."

This remark, however, has

revealed a deep split in the views of Charles Sturge and John Rew, Chatset's co-editors. Mr Rew said: "Those remarks were written by Charles Sturge and directed at those continuing to trade."

In spite of appearing in Chatset's latest publication saying "our advice" would be to accept the offer, the remarks reflect the personal view of Mr Sturge and not those of himself, Mr Rew said. Mr Rew stands at the opposite end of the spectrum, adamantly against accepting the offer. As a result of the differing views, Mr Rew is rejecting the offer while Mr Sturge is accepting.

Christopher Messer, chairman of the long-tail action groups, which represent names on syndicates facing future losses for policies written many years ago, criticised Mr Sturge. He said: "It is most unfortunate when an individual for whom I have the highest personal regard, and whose forecasts of loss and deterioration have proved to

be substantially more accurate than most, makes a recommendation purporting to represent company policy when clearly it does not."

Mr Sturge said that the remarks were purely his own and that he also meant the recommendation for acceptance to be directed at names on spiral syndicates and not long-tail syndicates. Mr Messer drew attention to the fact that Mr Sturge is exposed to the spiral syndicate losses rather than any long-tail losses.

The move by Chatset to offer advice in any form is a change in stance. Hitherto it has confined its activities to scrutinising the financial affairs of the insurance market. The analyst has a proven record for forecasting Lloyd's

results, normally being more accurate than Lloyd's itself. Mr Messer said: "Perhaps in future Chatset should stick to what they are rightly respected for and keep clear of the 'opinion' arena."

Mr Rew said the divide between the views of himself and Mr Sturge "illustrates the pernicious nature of the offer in that it promotes the 'divide and rule' philosophy of the Lloyd's establishment by making it in the interests of those who are continuing to trade to beggar their less fortunate fellows". However, he said that there is no guarantee that names will be able to continue underwriting next year and that they may find themselves following in the footsteps of less fortunate colleagues.

## Jaguar continues to run into red

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON  
IN NEW YORK

JAGUAR, the luxury car group owned by Ford Motor Company, continued to run deeply in the red last year, bringing its total losses since Ford paid \$2.5 billion in 1989 to \$1.2 billion.

The Coventry-based car maker, whose American sales are being boosted by a leasing programme allowing customers to drive a luxury model for \$59 a day, lost \$371 million last year, compared with a \$421 million loss a year earlier.

The latest figures include a \$174 million one-off restructuring charge, without which losses would have been halved. Ford executives say that they are beginning to see benefits of cost cutting, but analysts doubt Jaguar can break even this year.

In spite of its poor performance and continued losses on European operations, Ford reported its best profits for four years.

Last year's \$2.5 billion net income compares with a \$7.3 billion loss for 1992 on a turnover up 8 per cent to \$108 billion. Car and truck sales rose 3.5 per cent worldwide to 5.96 million units.

But while net income from making cars produced a \$940 million profit from a \$8.6 billion loss last time, it was the \$4 per cent rise to a record \$1.6 billion profit of Ford's financing operations that boosted the bottom line.

However, Alexander Trotman, the British-born chairman and chief executive of Ford, is optimistic. He said: "We are in good shape for 1994. We have strong new products and we expect better economic conditions. But there is still more to do and we remain committed to increasing efficiency."

The group's vehicle sales in the UK for the full year dropped almost 11 per cent to 422,000.



Alexander Trotman says Ford is in good shape for 1994

## Heseltine to stand clear of battle for Westland

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, head of the Department of Trade and Industry, has handed responsibility for decisions about Westland Group, the helicopter maker, subject to a £496 million bid from GKN, to Tim Sainsbury, the department's next senior minister.

Mr Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, who resigned as Defence Secretary in 1986 in a row over Westland's future, is determined to stay detached from the company's fate this time round.

Westland's board, headed by Sir Leslie Fletcher, yesterday emphatically rejected the takeover bid, although GKN has already secured a 47 per cent stake. GKN, a leader in car transmission components and industrial services, wants

Westland in its defence arm, which makes Warrior armoured vehicles.

Westland said that the 290p-a-share offer "lacks strategic logic" and "fail to value properly Westland's prospects under its existing management".

Alan Jones, chief executive, said: "The GKN bid brings nothing extra to Westland. In a reference to tax advantages that GKN would gain from increased earnings in Britain, he added: "It offers clearly undervalue the business and appear principally designed to address GKN's tax problems."

Westland executives remain puzzled that GKN, which has held a 28.3 per cent stake since 1988, failed to approach them earlier about plans for a takeover. Instead, GKN exer-

cised its pre-emption rights over an 18.7 per cent holding owned by United Technologies Corporation, the US owner of Sikorsky helicopters, and then made a surprise bid.

Westland's rejection of GKN's offer sets the scene for a long battle for the company. Because Westland is the UK's only helicopter manufacturer, the Government will have to take a close interest because of implications for Britain's defence manufacturing capacity.

Mr Heseltine resigned in 1986 after the Cabinet let Westland seek rescue support from UTC. Fiat and Hanson when he preferred a de-up with a European consortium led by Aerospaciale, of France.

Tempus, page 27

## Foreign takeovers can damage UK wealth

BY ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FOREIGN acquisitions "may have certain detrimental effects on the United Kingdom economy" and current merger policy is inadequate to protect Britain's interests, according to the first detailed study of takeovers of British firms in the 1980s.

Jobs have been lost, imports have risen, and control of finances and research spending has often moved overseas as a result of the £60 billion spent by foreigners taking

over 1,278 UK firms in the past eight years, the study found.

The study, by Jim Hamill and Pam Castledine of the Strathclyde International Business Unit at the University of Strathclyde, concluded: "United Kingdom acquisitions by non-European Community firms have generally positive effects on UK trade the opposite is the case for EC acquisitions of UK companies."

Their findings are based upon responses from a representative sample of 73 UK firms taken over during the late 1980s. According to the

study, "the fact that over 40 per cent of the total value of all cross-border acquisitions in Europe is accounted for by the foreign acquisition of UK companies reflects an 'un-level playing field' which puts British companies at a major disadvantage."

The researchers found non-EC firms often bought British operations to establish market share in the single European market, while EC firms were more likely to make UK acquisitions to cut their costs.

The authors say their findings raise important questions

about UK merger policy. "The main weakness is the almost total lack of attention paid to the wider macro and micro-economic effects," they say.

Increased competition from foreign companies, especially water supply, electronics and financial services, was accompanied by increasing concentration of market share, notably in chemicals, financial services, publishing and food and drink, the study found.

Two-thirds of companies taken over cut employment. The total number of employees in the 73 firms has shrunk

by 11 per cent, to 91,061, since they were acquired.

Overall, the findings suggest there were net benefits to UK industry in terms of inward transfer of technology or research and development spending, with over 40 per cent claiming an improvement.

Exports were also likely to increase sharply: 44 per cent of firms claimed increases in export volumes as a result of their takeover.

Foreign Acquisitions in the UK: Impact and Policy, University of Strathclyde, 173 Cathedral Street, Glasgow.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Eggar pledge on pits marked for closure

ANY more pits earmarked for closure by British Coal will be offered to private companies, the Government said last night. Twenty-eight closed collieries have been offered already for lease or licence, and it is likely that six will end up in private hands. Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, said that the Government was committed to ensuring that any pits due for closure were made available to the private sector.

Mr Eggar said in a written parliamentary reply that the pits would be kept on a care and maintenance basis. "The chairman of British Coal has assured me that no equipment will be removed from the pits proposed for closure at general review meetings last week unless the reserves of any of the pits are reallocated to adjacent mines or unless the removal of machinery is essential for safety reasons," he said. British Coal will be left with only 16 working pits after its latest closure programme. Experts believe that more mines will shut before the industry is privatised. Legislation to privatise British Coal is going through the Commons and will lead to the industry being offered for sale, probably in the summer, as five regional packages.

### Gas supplier jobs to go

UP TO 500 jobs are to go at Schlumberger Industries, a gas meter factory in Stretford, Manchester. The losses, which will take place over the next year, have been blamed on a fall in orders from British Gas, the company's main customer. "Revised purchasing requirements during 1994 have recently been confirmed by British Gas," a company spokesman said. "As British Gas is our main customer, this will, unfortunately, have a significant effect on the number of people we are able to employ."

### British Midland move

BRITISH Midland will lease a fleet of 11 Boeing 737s from Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) as part of the Nordic carrier's tough cost-cutting programme, which foresees 2,900 jobs being shed from a workforce of 20,000. The SAS board, which aims to strengthen the airline's financial base, decided yesterday to raise its cost-savings target to a total 2.9 billion kroner (£245 million) by mid-1995, from its previous target of 2 to 2.5 billion kroner. SAS owns 40 per cent of Airlines of Britain Holdings, British Midland's parent.

### Wales investment leads

WALES is leading the UK in attracting inward investment, but Welsh firms hoping to work with the multi-nationals need to raise quality standards, says a University of Wales report. Lack of research and development centres and a weakness in workforce skills are also identified by the team from the regional industrial research centre led by Professor Philip Cooke. The report says in the last decade, Wales has attracted nearly four times its expected share of investment against the South East, which achieved only one third.

### Sheraton favourite

SHERATON has been confirmed as the favoured candidate to take over Ciga, Italy's debt-ridden luxury hotel chain, agreeing to pay about \$530 million for its 34 hotels, a Ciga spokesman said. The proposal has been accepted by five creditor banks, but still needs the approval of another 15 banks. The Rocco Forte and George Soros bid had been the favourite, but Sheraton offered more. The Sheraton offer comprises 72 per cent of Ciga's total debt. The offer by Mr Forte and Mr Soros includes less than 65 per cent.

### Edell to go early

Stephen Edell, the building societies ombudsman, is stepping down on July 30, after seven years in office. Mr Edell, who was the first ombudsman to be appointed when the office opened in July 1987, is leaving five months sooner than expected. The building societies ombudsman's office said "a consensus had emerged" that Mr Edell should stand down after presenting the annual report for the year to March 31 1994 in June. His successor will be Brian Murphy, 53, who was appointed an ombudsman in May 1992.

### Pension report attacked

PENSIONERS whose Maxwell pension funds were milked told the Commons social security committee yesterday that proposed changes to pension rules would fail to prevent such a scandal happening again. Kenneth Trench, chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners Action Group, criticised the Goode report on pension law for failing to urge government regulation of pensions. The Securities Investment Board and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, provide self-regulatory oversight of the pension industry.

صوتك من الامم



er advice  
tlement

□ Carsberg targets the banks □ Generators and watchdog head to head □ A shy, retiring Chancellor

## Probably the world's best regulator

□ SIR Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, deserves a ripple of applause, if only for spoiling a few newspaper cutting albums. Four artistic souls, including Sir Nicholas Goodison, gazed out of yesterday's broadsheets, hands clutching a work entitled: *Good Banking*.

Unfortunately for the rewrite men, attempting to instill life into the Code of Banking Practice, which proved a high street flop a couple of years ago, Carsberg appeared to favour a title switch to *Not So Good Banking*. Outcome: four grins accompanied by headlines of the "Carsberg slams banking code" variety.

Carsberg was withering. The banks and building societies had "wasted an opportunity" to step up "consumer protection". In his words: "I am disappointed that the Code fails to take account of the banks' and building societies' increasing emphasis on the sale of financial services." Of particular concern to Carsberg was the absence of a commitment to give "best advice" to customers being offered a "myriad of financial products" embracing life assurance, investments and pensions.

Embarrassing for the Cheshire cat along with Sir George Blunden, chairman of the Review Committee, who, bearing in mind the two-year time frame, can hardly plead a fraught

deadline. More to the point, Blunden and his committee either missed the OFT's warning light or, more likely, chose to ignore it.

The OFT just happens to be one of the Blunden Committee's 18 "major consultees", and, last July, Carsberg publicly stressed that the banks and building societies should be required to give "best advice", particularly over the choice between endowment linked and repayment mortgages. As Carsberg delicately put it: "There is an uncomfortable feeling that bias may exist because of the commissions available on life assurance products." Such matters are dear to Carsberg's heart, note his subsequent attack on the life offices when he declared: "High termination rates are probably the biggest unexposed issue in life assurance."

In his submission to the Blunden (Blunder?) Committee, Carsberg also argued that clients with deposits or obsolete savings accounts should be "notified in writing" of the rates available as and when preferable products are introduced. But, alas, "best

advice" would appear to have no place in *Good Banking* and, when it comes to "best interest rates", the call for written notification merely heralds information being "freely available and accessible".

Nor is Carsberg (or anyone else) unduly impressed with the promise that pre-notification of charges (already practised by the TSB and the NatWest) will be rushed in by end-December 1996. Little wonder that Carsberg has decided to strike up a direct dialogue with the banks and building societies. *Good Thinking about Good Banking*.

### Playing the power game

□ AS MANY wars have been started by accident as have been triggered by unilateral aggression. Like the Great Powers in 1914, the power generators and the electricity watchdog would prefer to avoid a fight, but are apparently unable to resolve the conflict by diplomacy. Stephen Littlechild, of the Of-

### PENNINGTON



fice of Electricity Regulation, had once planned his review of the generation market, dominated by National Power and PowerGen with almost 60 per cent between them, for 1995. Last summer, he shifted the deadline to the end of 1993, effectively ahead of the Christmas break.

That deadline passed uneasily, and the unease prompted what may be Professor Littlechild's worst diplomatic error so far. He said he was of a mind not to refer the two generators to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, so holstering his weapon of last resort. In return, he wanted assurances on the price of electricity to the customer until a more competitive market could be achieved and on the steps the

two would take to import that additional competition by the voluntary sale of some existing power stations to third parties.

On price, what the big industrial users want is analogous to a fixed-interest mortgage. They are looking for contracts whereby they guarantee they will take a certain amount of power over a number of years in return for a guaranteed price over that period. Fair enough; but the generators, like any provider of the analogous mortgage, would thereby have to take on some degree of risk or at least restriction of profits, given the wild gyrations of prices in the pool, the open market for electricity, and this they are understandably unhappy to do. The big users say such contracts are available but, to stretch the analogy further, they tend to be on prices that equate to a 20 per cent fixed interest rate.

The key word in any assurances on plant sales is voluntary. Enforced sales at stated prices would be anathema to the generators; but in a free market for power stations they would presumably be allowed to set

their prices at unrealistically high levels.

At the second week of February and counting, negotiations are still bogged down on these two contradictions but there are signs that Professor Littlechild, mindful of the damage to his credibility if the debate goes on much longer, may be putting his own firm terms to the generators. They would then have to take them or trigger that MMC reference that neither side wants to see.

### It's surely not beyond our Ken

□ THIS NEWSPAPER wrote it first — that the low paid have been hardest hit by the Government's tax reforms. "Piffle", responded the Chancellor initially, never failing to prefer a glib comment to any resemblance of intellectual depth.

Now the impeccably independent Institute for Fiscal Studies adds another layer to the debate, pointing out that the tax system has become more unfair over the last decade. "I haven't read the

report," wails Mr Clarke on radio to breakfasting Britain. This is hardly credible. A Chancellor, with the Bank behind him and all the resources of the Treasury at his beck and call, caught unbribeable in Paris? Or would they say *sans culottes*?

Really, this isn't good enough. Mr Clarke may feel that his responsibility in bolstering the Prime Minister take precedence to his hand on the tiller of the Great British Economy. A quarter-point off base rates here; a quick meeting with finance ministers there; and let's get on with the business of politics. Yesterday's foreign exchange performance showed what the markets made of that.

But when is he going to talk in numbers? When is he going to forsake his old friends in the political lobby in favour of the economists? The admirable Mr Dorrell is holding the fort, but where is the admirable Mr Clarke? Surely he feels confident enough of his brief by now?

One senior City financier recalls the Chancellor within weeks of his appointment lecturing a meeting of businessmen with little attempt to establish a rapport. The impression left was not good. The City is right to expect its conversations with the man from the Treasury to be two-way. Mr Clarke, are you listening?



Gary Pette and David Bruce, of Grosvenor Inns, owner of Slug & Lettuce pubs, toast a £5.2 million rights issue, for expansion, and half-year pre-tax profits 12 per cent up at £358,000

## Standard Chartered acts over MG rescue

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, has issued a legal challenge to the DM3.4 billion rescue plan for Metallgesellschaft (MG), the German metals and engineering group that suffered huge losses on oil hedging deals that turned bad last year.

Actual and potential losses of DM2.2 billion, arising from futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, were uncovered in December. Although creditor banks agreed to the rescue package,

Standard has has applied for a temporary restraining order over the deal with a New York court.

Standard's legal move is specifically against MG Corp, the American arm of the German group, which was responsible for the hedging deals. A New York judge is expected to give Standard Chartered its temporary injunction in the next few days. The bank's claims on MG are believed to be for about \$23 million.

## Open skies hurdle for BA deal

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

BRITISH Airways' US expansion plans could hit a major snag next month as pessimism grows over the current UK-US international aviation talks on open skies, where agreement is not expected to meet next month's deadline.

An acceptable new Bermuda II pact is important if BA is to increase its stake in USAir, its American associate, and continue flying BA-USAir integrated routes, where US regulatory approval expires on March 17.

Ronald Allen, chairman of Delta Airlines, told the British American Business Group yesterday that months of negotiations leave "little room for optimism" that the talks will produce an acceptable agreement by the current deadline of mid-March.

Meanwhile, USAir, whose losses narrowed last year from \$1.2 billion to \$393 million, announced on Tuesday that it has cut fares on US routes used heavily by business travellers by 50 per cent and on leisure services by as much as 70 per cent.

## Lloyds Abbey Life payout softens profits blow

BY SARAH BAGNALL INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOYD'S Abbey Life, the insurance group 60 per cent owned by Lloyds Bank yesterday softened the blow of worse than expected full-year profits with an unexpected lift in its final dividend.

Pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 rose 9 per cent to £323.6 million, failing to match analysts' forecasts. The shares dropped 15p to 447p, but the fall was contained by a surprise lift in the final dividend from 11p to 11.7p, making a total for the year of 18p, compared with 17.3p last time.

Black Horse Financial Services, a "bankassurance" company that sells products exclusively to Lloyds Bank customers, advanced post-tax profits by 6 per cent to £80.9 million, helped by continued strong growth in single premium business.

However, profits at Abbey Life, the group's other UK life insurance operation that principally sells through a direct sales force, suffered a 7 per cent slump in profits to £93.3

■ While unit trust sales and single premium sales increased during the year the higher profit regular premium life products fell by 2 per cent

million. Stephen Maran, the chief executive, said: "The fall was mainly caused by the effect of lower interest rates on capital and retained surpluses."

Offsetting the lacklustre performance of the life operations were improvements at Lloyds Bank Insurance Services, Lloyds Bowmaker and Black Horse Agencies, the estate agency chain.

Roman Cizdyn, an analyst at Smith New Court, said: "The wrong bits of the group made the profits. Lloyds Bowmaker and the estate agency chain improved, but the high quality life business didn't."

The life operations experienced another year of depressed regular premium sales coupled with strong single sales. Black Horse Financial

Services' single premium sales increased sharply, helped by a more than doubling in unit trust sales, while Abbey Life's single premiums sales advanced 34 per cent and its unit trust sales rose 67 per cent. Conversely, Abbey Life's regular premium sales fell 2 per cent.

The mix of the business affects profits as "single premium business is about a tenth as profitable as regular premium business," Mr Maran said.

Vernon Partridge, an analyst at Williams de Broë, said: "The problem with the life sector is that the industry cannot sell products and cannot get the growth in new business."

"The main engine for profits is new business growth. On the whole, sectors and companies do not outperform the

market when their sales are stagnating."

Trans Leben, the group's German life subsidiary, continued to make losses. Provisions for irrecoverable advances to brokers and associated policy lapses led to a £14.5 million loss, compared with a loss of £14.1 million last time.

The continued losses at Trans Leben demanded a disproportionate amount of management attention. A situation that Mr Maran said was inevitable as "brackets round a number always get a lot of management time."

The group shrugged off the move by Marks and Spencer, the retailer, into the life and pensions market, saying that it did not expect any impact on the group's business. Mr Maran agreed, adding that business does not tend to walk through the door. "But it will be very interesting to see if their powerful branding will bring customers into their stores to buy products," he said.

Tempus, page 27

## Sturge hunt for chief executive

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Coleridge, former chairman of Lloyd's of London, is to wind down his involvement at Sturge Holdings, the Lloyd's underwriting agent.

He told the annual meeting that Sturge was actively seeking a group chief executive. He said: "I have been chairman since 1978. I was due to retire aged 60 and in June will be two years past my self-by date."

Mr Coleridge said that once a chief executive had been appointed he would reduce his involvement, effectively becoming non-executive chairman.

Shareholders were told that the total capacity for those Sturge syndicates trading on this year had risen from £520 million to £665 million. About 9 per cent of the 1994 capacity is provided by the new corporate capital companies.

In 1992, the group's total capacity topped the £1 billion mark, falling 30 per cent to £725 million in 1993. The fall to this year's level reflects the group's reduction in the number of syndicates from 22 to 15.

Tempus, page 27

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## ECONOMIC VIEW

# Markets need not panic but the Tories might

While interest rates have fallen in Britain, they have risen in America.

Anatole Kaletsky considers the knock-on effects of the changes

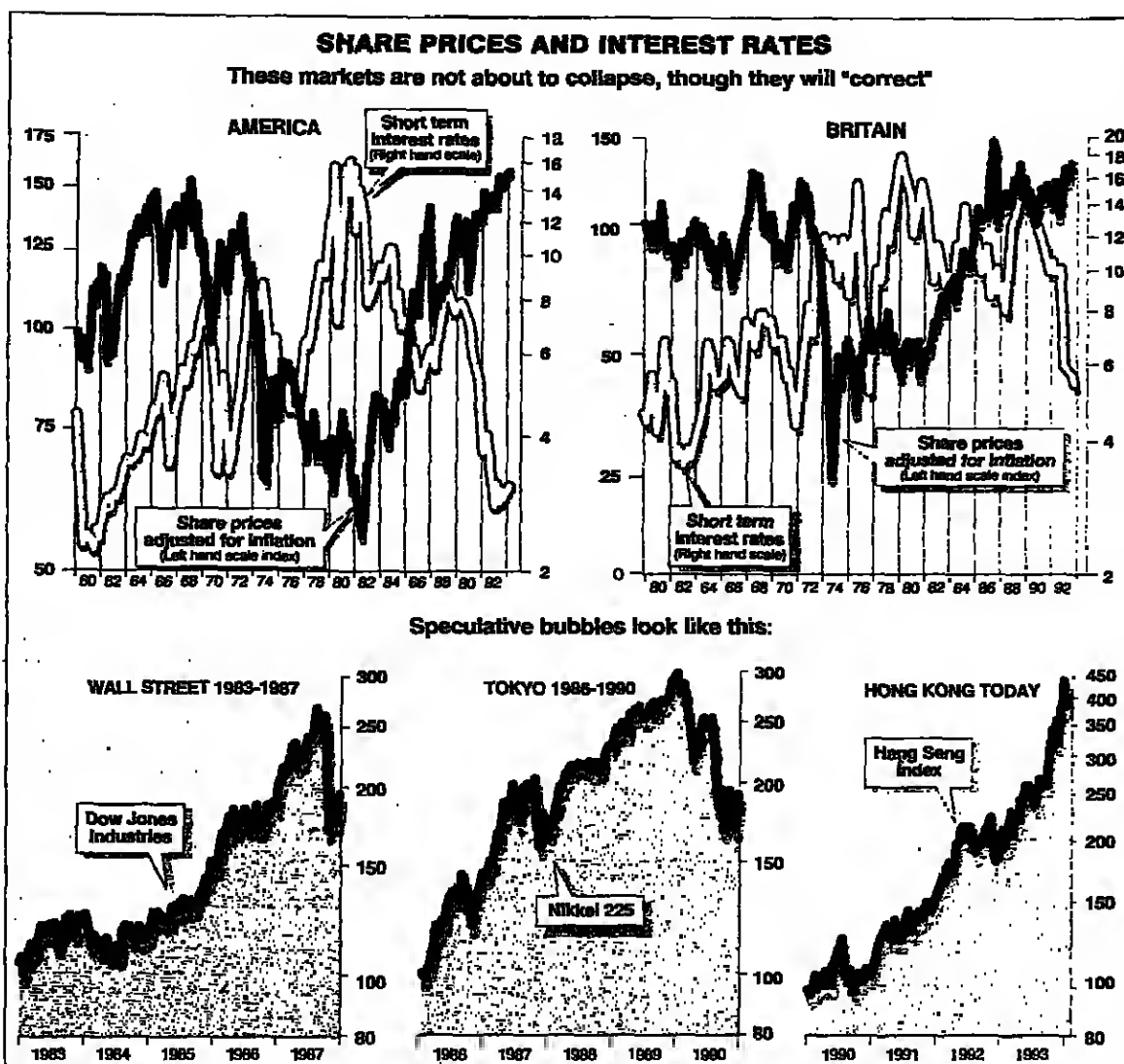
This week, I will have to deal with two separate, though related, topics. First a word about Tuesday's curious interest rate cut by the Bank of England; then some thoughts on the prospects for world financial markets now that the tide in American monetary policy has turned.

The quarter-point cut went down badly with all the financial markets. This was hardly surprising, given the Bank's quixotic timing and the signs of resistance to any rate cut at all from the Bank. Within hours of Tuesday's tiny step being announced, it emerged that the Bank "would have strongly opposed" a normal half-point rate cut. Translating from officialese, and bearing in mind that Kenneth Clarke was extremely unlikely to have suggested a cut as tiny as a quarter-point of his own accord, the natural conclusion was that Eddie George, the Bank's increasingly assertive Governor, opposed any rate cut. The compromise unveiled this week is unlikely to have satisfied either the Chancellor or the Governor.

Throw in the Bank's cack-handed timing of the announcement and Mr Clarke may finally be starting to understand that he was playing with fire by giving Mr George permission to run a public, political campaign for central bank independence. To have let Mr George off the leash at a time when the Treasury was planning a massive fiscal retrenchment and the economic recovery was still by no means secure was an economic mistake, given the new Governor's record of favouring deflationary monetary policies in almost all circumstances. This was made clear enough by the misjudgment of monetary policy forced on the Chancellor in last November's Budget.

What is less obvious today, but may trouble the Government more in the long run, is the political risk Mr Clarke has taken in opening the can of worms labelled "Independent Bank". The real political risk is quite different from the one usually identified. Everyone realises that changes in interest rates will now be harder to make for party political reasons. But a far greater danger for the Tories in the long run is that the Labour leadership will follow the Liberal Democrats and jump on the independence bandwagon. If Labour decided to endorse central bank independence, the only remaining economic weapon in the Tories' electoral armoury — low inflation — would be rendered useless. For how could the Tories frighten voters about high inflation under a Labour government with an independent central bank?

Quite easily, if historical experience and economic theory were all that mattered. The truth is that an independent central bank can no more prevent a government debauching its currency than King Canute could command the tides. The Tories could point out that inflation is not just a monetary phenomenon, that it is caused by budget deficits, that the Reichsbank of Weimar Germany was formally as independent as today's Bundesbank. But nobody would believe that the Tories knew more about inflation than the Governor of the Bank — not with the whole business and economic establishment,



extolling the new economic panacea of an independent Bank.

Now for my second subject. The Federal Reserve Board has signalled that American interest rates are rising. What are the implications for stock markets around the world?

My guess, based on experience of Wall Street in the financial mania of the late 1980s, is that a stock market crash on anything like the scale of Black Monday is unlikely in the next year or two, and is virtually out of the question within the next few months — at least in London or New York. (Tokyo, of course, marches to the beat of a very different drummer and now seems poised for a strong rise.)

By contrast, conditions in many of the "emerging markets" of Asia and Latin America are highly speculative and ripe for a collapse. Hong Kong, by far the biggest of these markets, could easily see share prices halve in a matter of months, if not weeks.

The London and New York markets could well see a further decline of 10 per cent or so in the near future, and are almost certain to see such a setback within the next few months, simply because markets never move in straight lines and a significant correction of the pre-Christmas rally is overdue. But taking a slightly longer view, these markets seem reasonably safe for three broad reasons.

First, as shown in the top two charts, neither London nor Wall Street are yet particularly overvalued. Adjusted for inflation, British shares are still below the levels reached in 1987, and no higher than they were in the late 1960s. American shares have been hitting new records, even in real terms. But this hardly seems surprising, given the good prospects for American business and the economy. In relation to average earnings or the growth of gross

domestic product, the British stock market is considerably cheaper than it was in the 1960s, while Wall Street is only moderately overpriced. But this very long-term argument begs an obvious question. So what if the markets are no more overvalued today than they were in 1987 and the late 1960s? That may just mean that a crash in the style of 1969, 1974 or 1987 lies ahead.

This leads to my second point. Stock market crashes have normally occurred towards the end of an economic cycle, as inflation accelerates and a monetary tightening threatens to cause a recession. The early phase of an economic cycle is often marked by a sharp run-up in stock prices, followed by an equally sharp correction, as American investors found in 1962. But such corrections tend to be quickly reversed.

Another way of seeing this is to note that stock markets do not necessarily suffer from rising interest rates, as many analysts seem to believe. Again, the charts tell the story. Bull markets have often coincided with rising interest rates, as in the 1940s and in the late 1970s in Britain. And even when rising interest rates have caused markets to fall, there has usually been a lag of three to six months between interest rates turning and the market making a top. In fact, the stock market often takes off like a rocket soon after interest rates start to rise — for if confidence survives the initial jolt of monetary tightening, investors persuade themselves that the bull market is invincible and throw caution to the winds. In this speculative phase lie the origins of the subsequent crash.

If stock markets start to rise sharply again in the next few weeks, such a crash may indeed lie ahead. But at the moment, even a very sharp correction

such as the 20 per cent fall that occurred on Wall Street in 1962, seems unlikely. The run-up in share prices has not been particularly steep so far, despite all the euphoric headlines, and this is the third reason why investors in London and New York can feel tolerably comfortable at present. When a steady ascent such as the one seen since 1990 runs out of steam, it tends to be followed not by a very sharp setback, but by a long period of dull trading. Market averages bob around without much direction, while investors concentrate on "stockpicking", looking for shares that will rise on their own merits, rather than being buoyed up by the market as a whole. That seems a plausible outlook for the main stock markets in America and Europe for the rest of this year.

Turning to emerging markets, we find a very different pattern. As the bottom charts show, the bull market in Hong Kong has been far steeper than Wall Street in the years before 1987 or Tokyo during the "bubble economy". Hong Kong has long displayed classic signs of a financial bubble. Last autumn the final element fell into place. An economic squeeze began in China, and hopes receded of a smooth transition from British rule; but the deteriorating fundamentals seemed only to accelerate the stock market's rise. The bull market entered its "invincible" phase as prices seemed to be borne upwards on a self-perpetuating upward spiral. One sharp external shock is often sufficient to prick this kind of bubble. Whether the Fed's move last Friday will turn out to be that pinprick remains to be seen, but anyone with money in Hong Kong and other emerging markets might recall an old trader's adage.

Don't panic. But if you do panic, be the first.

## TEMPUS

## Life in Lloyds' hands

LLOYDS Abbey Life feigns nonchalance about the effect that any compensation scheme for pension transfers might have on its business. But the fact it stopped writing the business altogether last summer suggests it is very uneasy about the outcome of the SIB's review.

Admittedly this class of business only accounts for £433 million of Lloyds Abbey's premiums, but the group's embedded value accounting methods mean that any compensation package which terminated some of these £300 policies early could leave a gaping hole in profits.

The group does not need this distraction while the pressure on its regular premium business is under increasing pressure from Pep and Tessa providers as commission transparency looms. Abbey Life is trying to replace its lost regular premium business with single

premium products. That is an uphill struggle, since they are only a tenth as profitable.

Such pressures must make Lloyds Abbey feel relieved it still owns Bowmaker, the finance business where profits are recovering sharply as bad debts decline. But even that cannot disguise the harsh climate in the life assurance world. On the positive side, the relative fall in Lloyds Abbey's share price reopens the opportunity for Lloyds Bank to bid for the 40 per cent minority. Lloyds Abbey is now capitalised at £3 billion, compared with Lloyds' £7.9 billion, whereas at one stage the two seemed headed towards parity. It may not be Lloyds' most brilliant strategic coup, but it could be an opportunistic masterstroke since the life assurance industry may presently be laid low but is hardly going to vanish overnight.

### Owners Abroad

OWNERS' recent history of profit warnings and boardroom blood-baths does not make attractive reading, but on this occasion, the City has been forgiving about past sins since the future looks so promising.

The feared black hole in the accounts has failed to materialise and the group still has cash resources of £100 million. Despite all last year's difficulties and a pegged dividend Owners still emerged with a net cash inflow, demonstrating the underlying strength of the business.

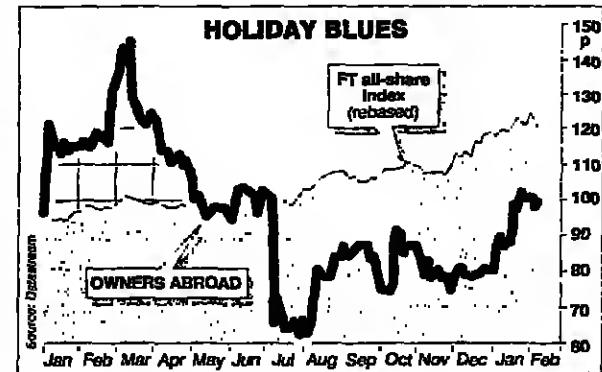
Owners' strategic alliance with Thomas Cook and LTU reduces its vulnerability to directional selling by retail outlets owned by its rivals — a practice currently under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading. But even if the OFT takes no action, Francis

Baron, chief executive, has not ruled out further moves towards vertical integration.

Although Mr Baron comes from outside the industry he is proving he has the necessary flair and experience to turn the group round. He has restored market share and his moves towards rationalising the many brands and develop-

ing new marketing strategies should push it higher still. The newly acquired Canadian tour operator, ITH, should also contribute to profit growth.

A promising recovery story is unfolding, but much of the news is in the share price, which at 120p is now back to where it was before the Airtrons bid last year.



### IMI

THE nine-fold oversubscription of the privatisation of Istituto Mobiliare Italiano (IMI), the Italian corporate bank, and the 20 per cent premium on the first day of dealings is reminiscent of the heyday of the British privatisation programme.

There are few banks in Europe which have such impressive credit quality as IMI, since 96 per cent of its loans have some form of government guarantee. The combination of earnings quality and a 4 per cent yield at the 10,900 lira flotation price made the shares more akin to capital growth bonds, and a useful alternative to the ubiquitous Italian government bonds, now Italian interest rates have fallen.

The greatest risk is that IMI will use its new freedom to expand into commercial and retail lending and behave like a normal bank — by losing money. Both management and shareholders should guard against it.

Having floated Credito Italiano and IMI successfully, the Italian government is trying for the hat-trick before

the end of the month with Banca Commerciale Italiana. This will be less straightforward, since few institutions have the solidity of IMI. But with the Italian public's appetite now whetted, privatisation bandwagon will continue to roll, with the institutions trailing in its wake picking up any shares that are left over.

### Westland

NEVER one to avoid a fight, Westland has decided to oppose GKN's bid. Its defiance is understandable, given the company's enthusiasm about the prospects for the EH-101 and the fact the bid is pitched well below the current share price. The wording of Westland's rejection suggests this is a genuine attempt to remain independent rather than simply squeeze another few pence out of the buyer.

But Westland's back is hard up against the wall. Since GKN already accounts for 47 per cent of the mid-eighties equity, it could allow the bid to lapse and take control by stealth, buying the 1 per cent a year allowed under the Takeover Code. Although

GKN's stake falls to 40.2 per cent on the full conversion of the warrants and convertible preference shares, the conversion terms are limited and creeping control is still a viable option. GKN would be deprived of the advance corporation tax benefits that come with a full merger, but could well take control just as Westland is receiving the benefit of the first EH-101 deliveries.

Similarly, it is hard to spot a potential white knight for Westland. Agusta, the Italian partner on the EH-101, is embroiled in the liquidation of Elfin, its state-owned parent, and is unlikely to have the resources. McDonnell Douglas, its partner in the Apache project, is also financially constrained. A wild card might emerge, but it is hard to see the benefit for any company now GKN owns such a large minority stake.

Westland has recovered impressively from its financial disasters of the mid-eighties and has much to be proud of. GKN may well feel obliged to sweeten its terms just to close the affair. But Westland already appears to have lost its case for independence.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Be nice and wag your tail

BEFORE the first howl in the Far East that greets today's start to the Chinese Year of the Dog, geomancers have been peering into their rice bowls to determine what sort of year this might be for stock markets. James Capel's previous soundings from wise *jung shui* masters in the East have, the firm says, been impressive: the October crash, 1987, Tiananmen Square, 1989, and the worryingly accurate predictions for 1992 that turned out to be spot on, at least for ten months of that year. Unlike the preceding years of the Rooster (1993) and the Monkey (1992), the Dog is more predictable and conventional, so 1994 may not be as exciting. Remember, though, when a dog biles, it is no small rip. Capel's month-by-month scenario has our dog, named K9, digging holes to bury bones in February — buy construction stocks. In March, the dog howls on death of a important politician (sell politically sensitive stocks). In April, a female friend, comes to play — visitor arrivals up, buy shipping shares — and in May... little yaps. Women and baby-

related businesses boom. Food and beverages make the bones for June investments (Cerebrates, BATs), and as July might see an increase in robberies and burglaries, go defensive (Chubb). Scratchy August sees volatility in stock and property markets, while September is London's equivalent of May — holiday time. Go away, and avoid Sino-British tension. Fifi and K9 are off colour in October, and a neighbour's boot, aimed at a cat, misses and hits them both. "Beware of health and the unexpected. There may be a small war. Sell insurance shares." December brings lots of tail-wagging, and best shares will be textiles

and garments, publishing and transportation. January time, and young thoughts turn to second guessing 1995, and the Year of the Pig, so it is food and beverages again. Capel's overall market strategy for the New Year? Be nice, and wag your tail often. And to all our readers, *Kung Hei Fat Choy*, or if you are Mandarin speaking, *Gong Xi Fa Cai*. The advice from Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia is investors should take predictions with "a wag of the tail".

### Trust pointer

RICHARD Howell, a very noticeable 6ft 3ins stockbroker,



known equally for his prowess as a guru on plantation shares as for his heavy chalk-striped suits with bright coloured linings, is stepping back into City life on Monday after a short break away from it all. He joins Greig, Middleton, where he will present investment trust shares to the institutions. Howell left Sheppards in 1993 after 24 years. He now teams up with David Thomas, Middleton's investment trust specialist, with whom he worked 20 years ago. Given that combination, can a new plantations investment trust be far behind?

### Chivalry lives

EVER since Lornho chiefs Tiny Rowland and Dieter Bock let off steam about each other, making pointed observations on a television business programme about boardroom manners, (currently, they are "the best of friends"), the City has been minding its p's and q's. The March edition of *Harpers & Queen* devotes a feature to the topic, appropriately quoting Anna Vinton, managing director of Reject Shop: "Make sure you say good morning to absolutely everyone." Naim Attallah, vice-chairman of Asprey: "It is

difficult not to feel nostalgia for good manners," and Giles Shepard, managing director of Savoy Group: "Return phone calls quickly, and when you do, not your secretary, should be on the line. Never allow thank-you letters to be typed," and "I always top and tail letters in my own handwriting." The age of chivalry lives.

### Double fault

THE umpire at Mike Burton, the corporate hospitality group, has cried "double fault" about Wimbledon fortnight prices detailed here yesterday. So as they say on court, I'll serve that again. Exclusive of VAT, the men's final day costs per person are £1,325, up from last year's £1,290, ladies' final day costs are £875 (£900), and the first few days are £5 up at £425. New balls, please.

### Sir Alistair Frame

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir Alistair Frame, chairman of RTZ (1985-91), who died on December 26, will be held on March 25 at St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, at 11.30am.

COLIN CAMPBELL

### BUSINESS LETTER

#### Tomorrow's companies

From the Chairman, IBM UK and others  
Sir, Today the RSA Inquiry Tomorrow's Company: the role of business in a changing world launched its interim report. Its main concern is how UK companies can attain sustainable business success within continuing and large changes in the nature and intensity of global competition.

In this context, the inquiry welcomes the Government's intention to publish a White Paper on UK Competitiveness in 1994 and offers the interim report as a constructive contribution to this vital debate.

The report represents the thinking of a group brought together by the RSA from major UK businesses to develop a vision of tomorrow's company based on their experiences.

The inquiry is publishing its interim report now to stimulate a wide debate on its work to date, and encourage a practical response from business. This consultative process will aid the inquiry team to shape its final report, planned for publication in 1995.

We would urge all those concerned about sustainable business success to read the interim report, take part in the debate, and follow through the report's practical implications in their organisations.

Yours faithfully,  
SIR ANTHONY CLEAVER,  
Chairman, IBM UK Ltd.,  
Chairman, RSA Inquiry, Tomorrow's Company, RSA,  
8 John Adam Street, WC2,  
LORD ALEXANDER OF WEEDON,  
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# UK's gas-cooled atomic power plants shed lame duck image

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

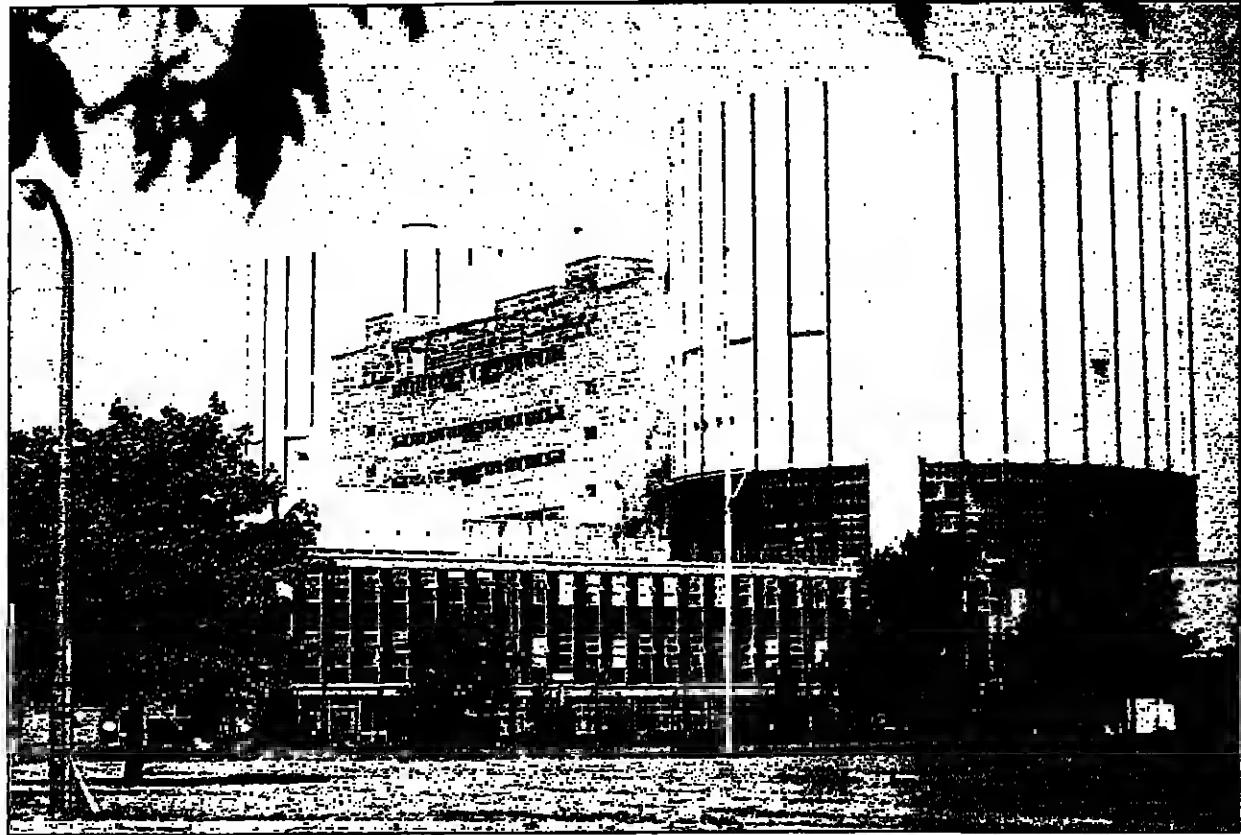
BRITAIN'S gas-cooled atomic power plants have cast off their reputation as the lame duck of the world nuclear industry and are challenging the performance of the best.

In an extraordinary turnaround, Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactors (AGRs) achieved an average load factor of 71.5 per cent in the year to September 30, 1993, only a couple of points behind the most successful design, the pressurised water reactor (PWR), according to a review by *Nuclear Engineering International*, the magazine for the industry.

The improvements are helping to cut the hitherto excessive cost of atomic power in Britain and, if sustained, should help restore the industry's battered credibility. This year, Nuclear Electric, the largest of Britain's four state-owned reactor operators, believes its AGRs may push the PWRs into second place.

Three years ago, AGRs were the world's worst performing plants, with load factors — the proportion of time they actually generate power — of little better than 50 per cent.

But since 1990, when the operators were told they must improve enough to compete in a free market, output has climbed, overtaking Britain's earlier Magnox designs as well as pressurised heavy water reactors and boiling water reactors used overseas. The improved nuclear performance has caused an acceleration in the contraction of the coal industry, which has suffered as coal plants have been forced off the system by protected nuclear sales.



Britain's Oldbury 2 Magnox reactor was one of only four in the world to offer 100 per cent availability

eration in the contraction of the coal industry, which has suffered as coal plants have been forced off the system by protected nuclear sales.

The world's most productive plant was in Switzerland, while Swedish, Canadian and American and Japanese plants dominated the top 20. However, the Oldbury 2

Magnox reactor at Oldbury-on-Severn, Avon, was one of only four in the world to offer 100 per cent availability during the year. Britain's best performing reactor, in terms of power generated, was at Hinkley Point B near Bridgwater, Somerset. It was 35th in a league table of more than 300 plants worldwide.

Nuclear Electric said three factors were behind the improvement in AGR performance. Reorganisation of the electricity generating industry had concentrated management of nuclear plants, making it easier for plant managers to share techniques and resolve problems. Nuclear Electric had spent mil-

lions to enable quicker refuelling of the AGR plants, and unplanned stoppages had been substantially reduced. *Nuclear Engineering International* said Nuclear Electric's AGRs continued to turn in an inferior performance to those of Scottish Nuclear last year. However, they are expected to nose ahead this year.

## Wilton TV deal to target Chinese in Europe

By SUSAN GELCHINIST

WILTON Group, the toys and electrical goods company, yesterday revealed its ambitions in the media field by announcing a deal to establish a satellite television channel for the Chinese communities in Europe.

The company has joined forces with Shaw Media Corporation, a media investment company based in Hong Kong, to launch the Chinese Channel (CC).

Most of the programming for the new channel will be provided by Hong Kong's Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), a large producer and supplier of Chinese language programming.

Shaw Media is owned by brothers Darren and Markus Shaw, grand nephews of Sir Run Run Shaw, chairman of TVB.

Wilton will take 80 per cent of the venture, which will eventually broadcast for 12 hours a day on an Astra satellite, and Shaw the remaining 20 per cent.

The channel, which is targeted at the estimated 850,000 Chinese living in Europe, will broadcast mainly in Cantonese. The agreement involves shareholders contributing up to £3 million of share capital. Wilton will subscribe for an initial £300,000 of shares and Shaw for £75,000.

Michael Buckley, Wilton's chairman who quit SelectTV last year after a boardroom split, said the development was an important step in the company's move towards becoming a media group.

The transformation started last July when Clive Ng, the Malaysian entrepreneur who has extensive media interests in South East Asia, took a stake of 28 per cent in the company and became deputy chairman.

Mr Buckley expects the channel to attract about 70,000 subscribers, each paying around £25 a month, and to become profitable within three years.

## Trifast flotation will create two £6m men

TWO £6 million men will emerge from the flotation of Trifast, the industrial fastenings group. Former Glynwed executives Mike Timms and Mike Roberts, who set up the company in 1973, are together selling just over 6 million shares at £2 each to raise £12.23 million between them. Mr Timms and Mr Roberts, who have not been actively involved in the management of the company for about ten years, will still own a combined 40 per cent of Trifast's shares after flotation — worth another £12.67 million.

Another £3.51 million will be used by the company to reduce debts, to buy new premises next to the head office at Uckfield in East Sussex, and to pay the expenses of the share placing. The whole company, which supplies the electrical and electronic industries, is valued at £31.68 million under the terms of the placing of shares with institutional investors.

## SEC revives trades plan

THE US Securities and Exchange Commission is to revive a proposal requiring investors to report big stock trades. The commission asked for comment on the proposed rules in 1991, but did not put them to a final vote. The new proposal will be subject to a 60-day public comment period. The proposal was revised to expand the definition of a large investor to one who trades shares valued at \$10 million in a day, or one who trades 200,000 shares with a value of at least \$2 million on any day. The original plan had lower limits.

## Water firms to merge

ESSEX Water and Suffolk Water, the two water supply companies owned by Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumex of France, have agreed to merge. They say the move is intended to bring greater efficiency and to further improve standards to customers. The companies have been under common management since 1994. The new company will be called Essex and Suffolk Water. Essex supplies a population of about 1.5 million and Suffolk about 250,000. The scheme requires approval at extraordinary meetings on March 7.

## Grahams share swap

GRAHAMS Rintoul Investment Trust, ultimately controlled by American Express Bank, proposes letting holders of stepped preference shares convert them into new ordinary shares. The dividend saving over the stepped preference shares' remaining 19 years will be £5.35 million. After the exchange scheme, net asset value would fall from 194.3p a share to a pro forma 183.4p. Pre-tax revenue in the year to December 31 was £15.4 million (£12.5 million). Net asset value was 170.9p (113.9p) a share. The total dividend is 0.25p (same).

## Triplex Lloyd sales

TRIPLEX Lloyd, the West Midlands metals and industrial engineering group, is continuing to divest non-core businesses with the sale of four building products businesses to JBS Industries for £6.5 million. The proceeds will be used to develop main activities and reduce net debt. The operations being sold are Hillakdam Coburn, Hillakdam Coburn (Ireland), Solair and Nico. They have net assets of about £4.3 million, and made combined operating profits of £500,000 in the year to March 31, 1993.

## S&N looks west to pitch Center Parcs camp

By MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SCOTTISH & Newcastle's Center Parcs operation, which operates 13 upmarket leisure parks in Britain and on the Continent, is eyeing the traditional home of the summer camp, the rural north-east of the United States.

Center Parcs, wholly owned by the brewer and now providing a third of its profits, has identified three sites on the eastern seaboard for a possible first site. They are in Northampton

County, Pennsylvania, in Sussex County, New Jersey, and at Forestburg, in Sullivan County, New York. The company has met Sullivan County officials, who were shown a 15-minute video on its European parks. A formal memorandum sent by fax to call the meeting apologised for short notice, saying that "timing is critical".

If it goes ahead, the \$125 million development will dwarf the one-stop town of Forestburg, population 619 and falling, according to censuses. The 300- to 500-acre site could provide

1,100 jobs and be Center Parcs' US headquarters, officials were told. Center Parcs has seven sites in The Netherlands and two in Belgium, France and Britain. A third British site, at Longleat, Wiltshire, is to open this summer and the first in Germany is to open next year. Sullivan County officials, who were invited to pitch for a site, were told that the parks are "year-round family recreational and vacation centres... in an environmentally sensitive manner". S&N says that no decision about a

US park has been taken, although it is considering taking options on land. Some locals fear the impact of 300,000 visitors a year, but both sides, boasting green credentials, seem united on the conflict question. Dutch-founded Center Parcs is keen on owners, which give visitors a sense of privacy, and deepest New York State has an awful lot of them. "They said they liked our confers," said Daniel Lambert, Forestburg town supervisor, after meeting company representatives. "They said they'd discuss it, and took off."

## Queen's Bench Division

## Law Report February 10 1994

## Queen's Bench Divisional Court

### Ethical ban on hunt unlawful

*Regina v Somerset County Council, Ex parte Fawcetts and Others*  
Before Mr Justice Laws  
[Judgment February 9]

A local authority had acted in excess of its statutory powers in banning stag hunting over its land under section 120(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. Councilors' moral objections to hunting were not a relevant consideration in a decision under the section.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Division granting an application by William Charles Fawcetts, the master of the Quenlock staghounds, William Stewart Leyland, chairman of the hunt's executive committee, and Richard Dwyer, huntmaster, for judicial review of the decision of Somerset County Council on August 4, 1993 banning the hunting of deer with hounds on the council's land at Over Stowey Customs Common.

Section 120 of the 1972 Act provides: "(1) For the purposes of... (b) the benefit, improvement, or development of their area, a principal council may acquire by agreement any land, whether situated inside or outside their area."

Mr Robert Carmichael, QC and Mr David Holgate for the applicants; Mr Michael Supperstone, QC and Mr Philip Sales for the council.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said it was

quite clear that the council's ban on hunting was passed entirely or at least in very large measure, because the majority of those voting for it were deeply opposed to the practice of deer hunting on ethical grounds.

Over Stowey Customs Common was the only land belonging to the council where deer hunting was not allowed. It had been appropriated in 1974 for amenity purposes under section 122 of the 1972 Act. The purpose of the appropriation was that specified in section 120(1)(b): "the benefit, improvement or development of their area."

The case involved a single issue of principle: was the subjective opinion of the majority of councilors voting, that deer hunting was morally repulsive, a consideration which at law the council was entitled to regard as relevant?

The county solicitor in advising the council had taken the view that it was but he had not at any stage drawn the members' attention to the source of their putative statutory power to ban hunting. It followed that if the ban was lawful it was more by good luck than judgment.

Without passing any stern criticism of the council's solicitor, it was important, at least where a sensitive ethical issue arose, that the lawyers advising the council should keep a weather eye on the statutory provisions governing the

council's powers, and advise members of their effect.

It was a major principle of the common law that a public body, such as a council, enjoyed no such thing as an unfettered discretion. That was not surprising: a truly unfettered discretion would put the decision-maker outside or above the law.

Public bodies and private persons were both governed by the law, but the principles governing their relationship with it were wholly different.

Private persons could do anything that the law did not prohibit. But the rule was opposite for public bodies, and was that any action had to be justified by positive law.

A public body had no rights except those required to discharge the better performance of the duties for whose fulfilment it existed. It had no axe to grind beyond its public responsibility: a responsibility which defined its purpose and justified its existence.

The primary question in the case was whether the councilors' moral objections to the practice of hunting were capable of justifying the prohibition as a measure which conducted to "the benefit, improvement or development" of their area.

His Lordship rejected a submission from Mr Supperstone that the statutory provisions limiting the powers of an elected body should be interpreted more broadly than where powers were delegated to an unelected body. That would be to impute an intention to the legislature which *ex hypothesi* could not be derived from the language of the Act.

In his Lordship's judgment the words of section 120(1)(b) were not wide enough to permit the council to take a decision about activities on its land which was based on free-standing moral perceptions as opposed to an objective judgment about what would conduce to the better management of the estate.

The section was not within the class of provisions which required the decision-maker to have regard to moral considerations as such.

A prohibition on hunting, under the section, could be justified only if the council reasonably concluded that the prohibition was objectively necessary as the best means of managing the deer herd, or was otherwise required, on objective grounds, for the preservation or enhancement of the amenity of the area.

If the activity in question was permissible under the general law, it was by no means to be prohibited on the ground only of the decision-makers' distaste or ethical objection where the reach of his statutory function on its face required no more than the making of objective judgments for the management of a particular region.

Parliament could legislate against activities on avowedly moral grounds, but where a subordinate body asserted a right to do so, the court would presume against it unless the empowering statute positively required the authority to bring its moral views to bear.

The council's decision would be quashed. *Solicitors: Crispes Harries Hall, Tunbridge Wells; Mr Anthony Bull, Taunton.*

*Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Fayed*  
Before Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Mitchell  
[Judgment February 9]

The Minister of State at the Home Department had erred in agreeing to extradite a man to the United States for offences allegedly committed between nine and twelve years earlier where the United States government was responsible for much of the delay in bringing the application for extradition.

Under the circumstances the minister should not have left it to the United States court to decide whether the delay was such that the trial would be unjust and oppressive.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing an application for *habeas corpus*, but allowing an application for judicial review by Harshad Jashbhai Patel of the secretary of state's decision to January 1993 to order his extradition to the United States.

Mr Lionel Swift, QC and Mr Donald Cryan for the applicant; Miss Clare Montgomery for the secretary of state and the Governor of Britain Prison; Mr Paul Garlick for the government of the United States.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY, giving the judgment of the court, said the charges against the applicant, of theft from his employer, were serious, although not of the first

level of seriousness. They had been committed between nine and twelve years previously and the offences had come to light for the most part in 1983 and 1984.

The trial would depend on conflicting oral accounts of the applicant's terms of engagement. The applicant had not been culpably responsible for the delay but the US government had been responsible since March 1988 for unexplained, and hence culpable, delay.

The overall period of the delay was rendered the more oppressive because for a period of six years the applicant had believed that his extradition was no longer being sought and during that time he had married and started a family.

The minister in making his decision had not addressed at all the enormity of the period of delay and its effect on the life of the applicant, particularly in the light of his six years of false security and the commitments he then undertook.

The minister had decided that the lapse of time was not such as would make it inappropriate to leave these matters to the foreign court.

In so doing he had failed to give sufficient regard to the applicant's rights and the protection that the extradition process was intended to afford him and had clearly misdirected himself.

*Solicitors: T. Cryan & Co, Harrow; Treasury Solicitor; CPS, International Branch.*

### Good character and spent convictions

*Regina v Heath*  
Before Lord Justice Russell, Mrs Justice Smith and Mr Justice Dyson  
[Judgment February 9]

Where a judge regarded the spent convictions of a defendant, disclosed by him in evidence, as lacking in significance to the extent that he should be regarded as a man of good character, the judge should give to the jury the directions to be found in R v Vye (The Times February 22, 1993, [1993] 1 WLR 471) as to the relevance of good character to the defendant's credibility and to his propensity to have committed the offence charged.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing the appeal of Robert William Heath against his conviction on January 16, 1992 at Maidstone Crown Court, before Judge Simpson and a jury, of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of cannabis, on which he was sentenced to seven years jail.

Mr Michael N. O'Sullivan, assigned by the Registrar for Criminal Appeals, for the appellant Mr Sedon Cripps for the prosecution. LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said that in his summing up, the judge

in effect equated the defendant's character, blemished as it was, with the character of a man with no previous convictions.

No criticism could be made of the judge, but since the date of the trial the law had been radically changed by Vye. It was plain now that there was a mandatory obligation on judges to give the two directions whenever a defendant was of good character. Vye had been followed by a number of authorities that in one way or another placed a gloss upon it.

In the context of the appeal the most important was R v Horner (October 5, 1993, unreported) in which, while acknowledging that a judge was not under a mandatory obligation to give the directions where the previous character was not absolutely good, the court interfered with the exercise of the judge's discretion plainly because it took the view that if the judge believed the previous convictions were of no materiality and that the defendant should be regarded as of good character, the two directions to be found in Vye should be given.

The present case was indistinguishable from Horner and it was common ground that no directions on either limb were given. *Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.*

### Alternative charges

*French and Another v DPP*  
Where there were alternative charges of handling and theft and a *prima facie* case on both charges, justices were justified in acquitting of theft and convicting of handling.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Mitchell) so held on January 27 dismissing an appeal by way of case stated from a decision of Brighton Justices on August 23, 1992, convicting David French and Andrew Ryan of handling stolen goods.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said it was for the magistrates to decide, from the inferences they drew from the evidence they heard, which offence the appellants were guilty of.

Although defence counsel had suggested the magistrates should have directed themselves to look only at the theft charge, the conviction of handling was justified on the evidence given, having regard to the fact that the appellants were acquitted of the theft charge.

### Costs order powers

*Magee v Armstrong Engineering Services (London) Ltd and Others*  
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Hobhouse  
[Judgment January 28]

A judge had no jurisdiction to make an order depriving one joint defendant of his costs where the plaintiff undertook to discontinue proceedings against that defendant when the plaintiff wished to accept a payment made into court by the other two defendants to the action.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Taymeed Ltd, against the order of Judge Ryland at Uxbridge County Court on July 23, 1993 when, having given leave to the plaintiff, Patrick Joseph Magee, to withdraw money paid into court by the first defendant, Armstrong Engineering Services (London) Ltd and the third defendant, British Gas plc, he made no order for costs against the plaintiff in respect of the second defendant's costs on the plaintiff's undertaking to file forthwith a notice of discontinuance against the second

defendant. Mr John Cherry, QC and Mr James Laughland for the second defendant; Mr Michael Harrison for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that even having accepted the payment in by the first and third defendants, the plaintiff could have proceeded to trial against the second defendant on the issue of costs only. Alternatively, the plaintiff could have discontinued his action against the second defendant.

Here, the plaintiff did neither but applied for a declaratory judgment as to the effect of discontinuance.

In his Lordship's judgment, not only did the judge have no jurisdiction to make the order he did, there was no reason for depriving the second defendant of his costs when he had maintained throughout that he was not liable to the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Dillon agreed.

*Solicitors: Kermadys, Brentwood; Booth Bennett, Uxbridge.*

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1.750%	£2,000 - £24,999	1.76%
1.250%	£500 - £1,999	1.26%

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4.125%	14 days notice of withdrawal required - No minimum deposit/withdrawal	4.19%
4.000%	£250,000 to No Maximum	4.06%
3.875%	£100,000 - £249,999	3.93%
3.250%	£25,000 - £99,999	3.29%

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## ACCOUNTANCY

## Tax in the global village

BY PETER WYMAN

The question is sometimes asked: why do the Big Six accounting firms need to be large global organisations? Part of the answer is that this is the only way in which multinational businesses can obtain the tax advice they need to be able to trade as they wish around the world without suffering confiscatory taxation.

While business has become increasingly global, tax systems remain national in approach and often nationalistic in outlook. While paying homage to the god of free trade, governments frequently see foreign businesses as a political soft touch for raising taxes.

The tax advice international businesses need requires more than intimate knowledge of local tax laws, consolidated into a group plan. International tax advice is about devising solutions that are not only efficient in each territory but, more important, produce the optimal solution for the group as a whole.

Avoiding the same profit being taxed in more than one country and ensuring profit can be repatriated without unreasonable tax penalty is essential. A global overview is essential.

The only effective way to secure quality advice of this kind is to have a multinational team from one organ-

isation, familiar with working with a common approach, to common standards, and working truly as a team. It may be possible to assemble such a team from different organisations, but it is hard to envisage this working successfully on any significant scale. If at all, given that different firms will have different cultures, do not have shared experiences and databases and will often regard each other more as competitors than members of the same team. Hence, firms such as Coopers & Lybrand have developed international teams for each of their multinational clients who are used to working together and who can provide global solutions to global tax problems.

In some countries tax advice is more often given by lawyers than is the case in the UK. However, there are few parts of the world where firms such as Coopers & Lybrand do not have significant international tax capability. On the other hand, the lawyers have yet to develop international groupings other than on a limited basis; the Big Six accounting firms have 3,600 offices in 130 countries. The six largest firms of UK solicitors have between them only 62 offices in 20 countries.

International tax planning requires a clear understanding of the commercial objec-



Peter Wyman says team work is the answer to global advice

tives of the group. Many of the issues, dividend planning and transfer pricing for example, require skills in numeracy. Here the accountants are best placed to advise. Often, agreements will have to be made with local tax authorities and again the accountants, with their regular contacts with the

tax systems of the different countries can produce catastrophic consequences for the employee or the employer, who often indemnifies the employee for the costs. Either way, the value of the overseas assignment will be undermined by unnecessary costs and through attention being diverted to those worrying and potentially significant liabilities.

□ Advising the wealthy individual who will, as often as not, have residences in more than one country and assets in many more.

As the world gets smaller, Coopers & Lybrand's international specialists worldwide are seeing both these areas of activity expand. However, national tax systems stubbornly remain individual and often incompatible with each other whenever businesses or individuals are taxable in two or more countries.

While harmonisation is much talked about in practice, there has been little progress within the EC — and none outside. Since this position will remain for many years to come, the international tax capabilities of the Big Six firms remain the best, if not the only, way for multinational businesses and internationally mobile individuals to obtain the tax advice they need.

The author is head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand

## Dial ICA for deep disillusionment

IT IS always a bad sign when organisations become obsessed with how they answer telephone. Everyone who has glanced at a management book over the past decade knows that being customer-driven starts with ensuring that the first contact that a prospective customer or user makes with an organisation had better be a good, useful and fruitful one. And invariably that means paying some attention to telephone manners. The problem comes when organisations then become obsessed with that sort of detail and fail to notice that much greater disasters are looming.

So it is with the English ICA. It has just issued the report from its members support task force. This was set up to try to counter a rising tide of criticism by producing sensible reforms and initiatives that would allay the genuine frustration felt by the members. But the report does little to engage with the real problems. "Members feel abandoned and without support in a hostile world" was the comment the task force received from several quarters. The report's response is mostly flannel and reflects the obsession with telephone manners.

"Helplines" are to be set up, "direct dial numbers should be promoted wherever possible", and the whole panoply of service-related initiatives is to be rolled out. Yet none of these gets to the heart of the problem. The institute is just too big.

Institute staff are knee deep in courses that will train them to "smile when they answer the telephone" while all the great accounting issues of the day are left mouldering in pigeon-holes.

The panic that this frightening obsession with the internal workings of the place engenders has spread to the council. Once the press had been cleared from the council meeting last week, Michael Chamberlain, the institute president, tore the council off a strip for the huge number of leaked documents that had found their way into the media. Now the institute's hapless administrative supremo, Paul Glicker, is engaged in an extraordinary exercise to construct some sort of a matrix that will show which council members would have had copies of which leaked reports. The threat is that when names overlap among the diagrams and arrows on his sheets of graph paper, questions will be asked and resignations requested.

It is all, frankly, ludicrous. And it is no wonder that senior partners of some of the

largest firms are now so deeply disillusioned that they are suggesting that they will fund some kind of director-general post for the institute, in the hope that changes can be made. Presidents, they argue, are transitory, while chief executives are too tied up in telephone cord to relay an effective message to the outside world.

The much-leaked report to the Department of Trade and Industry of the three chartered institutes' audit monitoring efforts for last year shows just what important issues are being sidelined. The report shows that many of the areas of auditing are, as expected, of a high standard. But when it comes to the firms that have been inspected as the result of complaints, the report shows that standards are low. All that is fairly predictable. And although complaints are still on the increase, there must be a hope that many of the worst offenders have now been weeded out. The only real worry for the profession is that the Government review into how the whole audit regulation system is working may suggest more inspectors, more paperwork and more cost. In the report, the figure which ought to have brought a degree of sense to the accounting bodies is the one that shows that by the end of this year the costs of audit regulation since the inception of the scheme in 1989-90 are expected to hit £16 million. It is that which ought to set alarm bells ringing and should provide the agenda. And it is that sort of issue which the institute, at its most senior levels, should be dealing with.

But instead, the English institute is hell-bent on creating an even bigger and yet more unmanageable accounting body by putting all its current political efforts into attempting a merger of the whole profession. The whole tone of the members support task force report suggests that the institute is already too unwieldy, unable to cope with members' diverse interests and floundering. Even the institute's beloved telephone survey suggests that members really do not mind about the detail. If someone had asked them about things they cared about, the future about internal control proposals perhaps, then they would undoubtedly have had some good strong views. Or they might have just simply observed that when a great accounting body loses its identity and purpose, all it is left with is footing with the phones.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Currie in favour

KREMLIN watchers at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales were intrigued to notice that the first two people on the agenda to speak at last week's council meeting were, surely coincidentally, the two people revealed at the start of the meeting to be the deadly rivals in this year's race for the vice-presidency. And, judging by their performance, it's a one-horse race. Brian Currie, ex-Arthur Andersen partner and

brother-in-law of novelist-magnum MP, Edwina Currie, exuded confidence. He was relaxed, witty, avuncular, the master of the raised eyebrow and the knowing smile. But when his opponent, Coopers & Lybrand partner Chris Laine, stood up to present his members support task force report he was hit by a hurricane of protest. Council member Susan Gompels was furious that the report had been issued to the press before the meeting,

complete with a note that it had been passed by council. "Are we participating in a charade," she bawled. Laine, said to say, could only splutter about embargoes. It looks like it's Currie who'll find favour.

## At the double

ONLY a great leap in the imagination could save the forthcoming pestilence of Paccioli celebrations from sending the entire nation into

a deep and welcome slumber. Not content with sneakily getting its celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Venetian monk's invention of double-entry bookkeeping off the ground a week ahead of the Scots institute's efforts, the English ICA is about to unleash its secret weapon. On the opening day of the exhibition, it intends sending a Paccioli look-alike out into the City streets, habit, hood and all, to drum up visitors. We must

just pray they hire someone from a silent order.

## Musical note

CASSON Beckman, a West End firm of chartered accountants, has teamed up with West Lothian College to investigate what the future has in store for the UK music industry. The idea is to produce an authoritative reference document that will highlight key areas to be addressed for the UK to continue as a world leader in developing musical talent.

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**THEATRE page 34**  
Sexy Balzac and a slice  
of the Comédie  
Humaine — with a cast  
of only eight

# ARTS

**ART page 35**  
The art critic turned artist  
— how Richard Cork  
came to draw  
Picasso in Cannes

**CINEMA: Geoff Brown finds *In the Name of the Father* powerful and moving**



Daniel Day-Lewis plays Gerard Conlon and Emma Thompson his solicitor in Jim Sheridan's controversial film of the conviction and release, after 14 years, of the Guildford Four

## Fact exploded by fiction

One week Daniel Day-Lewis glides through New York's best-appointed drawing rooms in *The Age of Innocence*; the next he is an Irish ruffian (black leather jacket, tousled hair) stealing lead from roofs. But in *In the Name of the Father* does not leave this chameleon actor a plain paddy thief for long. During the opening credits, pubs in Guildford are blown up by the long arm of the IRA. Before half an hour is out, Day-Lewis's Gerard Conlon becomes one of the Guildford Four — convenient scapegoats arrested in the early days of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, then tried and wrongfully imprisoned for a crime they took no part in.

Jim Sheridan's controversial and powerful film grabs the attention with its urgent portrayal of disturbing events whose shock waves can still be felt throughout the British legal system and society at large. Even the jarring spectacle of Emma Thompson as Conlon's dogged attorney, fraught with worry at the wheel of her car or bleating out a quaint "Righty-ho!", does not disrupt the momentum.

Events span 15 years, from the pub bombings in October 1974 to the moment in 1989 when the Four's convictions, along with those of family and friends, were overturned after conclusive proof of withheld evidence and coerced confessions. To fit the story into under two hours many events have been telescoped, and as the film's detractors eagerly

point out, fact sometimes slips into semi-fiction. But Sheridan is making a commercial feature for the international market, not a hard-hitting BBC documentary; and the script's streamlining brings obvious dramatic benefits, sucking audiences right inside its story of father and son, of wrongs finally righted. Maybe Corin Redgrave's police official Dixon, the man depicted as the chief obstructor in the Four's fight for justice, is too much a cardboard bogey, but all tales of injustice need a villain to finger. The main drawback is that Conlon's 14 long years of imprisonment feel like five, at the most.

Sheridan told *The Times* on Tuesday: "I wanted to lift the story out of England/Ireland relations, and the kneejerk reactions that go with that." If you look at the film with open eyes, it is clear that he has succeeded. In *In the Name of the Father* offers no partisan political harangue, but an emotional story about ordinary folk trapped between the IRA and the British Establishment; a story about a wayward son locked in the same prison cell with Giuseppe, the quiet, upstanding father he gradually grows to love. The tense scenes between the two, so admirably played by Day-Lewis and Pete Postlethwaite, lie at the film's heart; by contrast Emma Thompson's character, despite prominent billing, lives only on the fringes.

Sheridan and his cameraman Peter Biziou stage events with a rough, quasi-realistic

**In the Name of the Father**  
Plaza, 15, 113 mins  
Powerful film about the Guildford Four

**Free Willy**  
Warner West End, U, 112 mins  
Family film aims low and hits

**The Three Musketeers**  
Warner West End, PG, 106 mins  
Noisy, youthful, empty, unnecessary

**Ethan Frome**  
National Film Theatre, 106 mins  
Polite account of Edith Wharton's grim novel

look that prevents the film settling into the Hollywood rut. In *In the Name of the Father*, a big improvement on Sheridan's earlier *The Field* and a worthy successor to *My Left Foot*, has a precious power to move and provoke. See it.

Injustice of a different kind is featured in *Free Willy*, a family film which tugged at America's heart all last summer. Willy, you see, is an orca, a 7,000lb whale with art deco colouring plucked from happy times larking in the ocean spray to sulk and thrash in an adventure park tank. He finds a soulmate in Jesse, an abandoned, aggressive child parked with foster parents.

Pretty soon Jesse is feeding him salmon, stroking his tongue, and helping the whale to escape captivity.

It says much about audiences' hunger for clean family fun that this pile of cinematic blubber could attract such queues. There are ways of tickling the public and being ecologically correct without resorting to tedious stereotypes, but director Simon Wincer and his colleagues have not bothered to find them. They take the easy route. You know the terrain: a chubby kid with curly hair, a greedy park owner who sees only dollars, a wise Indian handyman (good for a bit of native lore), a lissom lady animal trainer (good for a flash of midriff), all yoked to a plot as predictable as sliced white bread.

The cast includes cute little urchin Jason James Richter and Michael Madsen, so memorable as the dancing thug in *Reservoir Dogs*. But the film's only asset, of course, is the whale. Given the creature's obvious intelligence, it would be interesting to hear what he thought of the script.

"Is this Musketeer headquarters?" d'Artagnan asks, newly arrived in Paris. So much for any period flavour. But Disney's new edition of *The Three Musketeers* was never designed to be true to historical times. "You got it?" "Bad timing!": contemporary expressions just spew from the mouths of the brashcast cast (Kiefer Sutherland, Charlie Sheen, Chris O'Donnell) while jangling spurs, galloping

hooves and gunfire keep the soundtrack at the deafening level young audiences love.

The trouble with *The Three Musketeers*, however, is not the contemporary trappings plastered over Dumas's familiar story. If adroitly handled, they could have been fun. But Stephen Herek, past director of *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*, appears to be filming by numbers.

Two characterisations pierce the bland surface. Oliver Platt's Porthos has an appealing, sly swagger, while Tim Curry's Cardinal Richelieu (pronounced Reeshloo, if you please) serves a succulent slice of barn. But other musketeers and Rebecca de Mornay's Milady de Winter punch the air to no effect. A wearisome film, this, and one that can make even audiences in their twenties feel old.

Given Edith Wharton's new prominence in moviegoers' eyes, and the high profiles of two of the stars, it is a little surprising to find *Ethan Frome* crouching under Waterloo Bridge for ten performances at the National Film Theatre. True, this clean and sober adaptation of Wharton's novel lacks the blazing creativity of Scorsese's *The Age of Innocence*. But Liam Neeson and Patricia Arquette are not to be sniffed at, and John Madden's film makes some headway into Wharton's grim tale of thwarted love.

"We leave the Fromes alone, Reverend," a newcomer to the remote town of Starkfield, Massachusetts, is told, after Ethan Frome hobbles into

view, face and clothes wizened, the right leg yanked out of shape. We soon learn why. Locked into a bleak marriage with a hypochondriac wife, the younger Frome falls for his lively housekeeper (Patricia Arquette). But fate and his wife's bile stamp out any chance of happiness.

Neeson's performance as the thwarted lover is big and brooding, though it needs a more imaginative frame. Madden's visual approach is strictly functional, and the ravishing snowy landscapes, fit for a New England calendar, cannot suggest the claustrophobic wilderness Wharton's tale needs. A rough edge or three would have allowed this *Ethan Frome* to stand up for itself, and not be a mere film of the book.

## Bosnia in the frame

How Sarajevo's film-makers are defying bombs and shortages

Every film-maker has to grapple with breaking the budget, running over schedule and juggling actors' fragile egos. But only Saga, the Sarajevo Group of Artists, also has to contend with daily sniper fire and bombardment by mortars and artillery.

Like many in the besieged Bosnian capital, Saga's members are determined to lead as normal a life as possible, and carry on filming even as the carnage rages around them, sometimes just a few yards away. When the skies daily rain death and destruction from the Serb gunners in their eeries outside the city, every take, every frame is a gesture of defiance that says even in war, culture cannot be extinguished. In Sarajevo to step outside the door can mean death or injury, but its inhabitants still risk their lives to see a play, watch a film or listen to a concert.

"Even with the war we don't miss much," says Saga director Pjer Zalica, an assistant professor at Sarajevo's film and theatre company. "We have a symphony orchestra, the theatres work, although only during the day because of the curfew, our painters are still painting, and we are making films. We live in a kind of anaesthesia. When you walk home and see five people killed you just have to eat and forget it or you will go mad."

Saga was set up a decade ago, initially producing music video clips and commercials. Its members are drawn from all parts of Bosnia's national and religious mosaic, including Serbs, Muslims and Jews, and ethnic mixes of all kinds.

Now they document the destruction of Bosnia and see themselves as fighters, but wielding cameras instead of Kalashnikovs. "Culture is our only way to survive as human beings," Zalica says. "It gives spirit and sense to life, otherwise you live like an animal."

Saga's members have just

returned to Sarajevo after showing their films at Budapest's Sarajevo Film Week to crowded houses every night. They have also played in New York, Cannes, Pisa and Montreal, and plan to go to Cannes and Berlin this year.

Even with their determination every film is a struggle to make. There are no film laboratories in Sarajevo now, so Saga shoots on video. Money and equipment are in short supply, although Saga is supported by the Soros foundation.

Their works range from shorts such as the recent snatches of Sarajevo street life shown on BBC2, to longer feature films such as *Confessions of a Monster* about Borislav Herak, a convicted war criminal now in prison in Sarajevo. *Godot Sarajevo*, directed by Zalica, follows Susan Sontag's visit last summer when she staged Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

"She has a good will and she came to live and work with us in almost the same conditions in which we live," Zalica says. Like many Sarajevans, he is cynical about the hordes of journalists who fly in for a quick fix of blood before jetting off again.

"Some reporters are good but others come on a war safari to promote themselves. They write stupid stories which don't tell people what is going on. We are not asking for help. We want to help Europe because Europe does not understand that something powerful and evil is knocking on their door."

The Bosnian Serbs apparently also recognise the importance of culture. When they are not targeting children playing in the street they casually lob a few shells at cultural events.

Once they hit a theatre with three mortars before a performance, "I was glad in a crazy way," Zalica says. "It means they care about what we do."

ADAM LE BOR

## Man of Mold

FOR those who fear that Sir Anthony Hopkins will never return to the stage, a green shoot of hope appears in Mold, North Wales. It is here, at the Theatre Cloyd, that Hopkins has vowed to resume his theatrical career before the year is out. He has yet to decide on the role, but is certain to direct as well as to star. "If Master Branagh, whom I greatly admire, can do both, then I would like to think that I can too," he says. Inexperience though he may be (*Equus* in Los Angeles is his main credit so far), we must hope he fares better than the chaotic Welsh director whom he played with such ominous conviction in *A Chorus of Disapproval*.

● IT IS clearly the season for stars to fall out with opera houses. In New York, the Metropolitan Opera has dispensed with the

## ARTS BRIEFING

services of the soprano Kathleen Battle, claiming she was "unprofessional" during rehearsals for Donizetti's *La fille du régiment*. Battle's abrasive personality appears to have distressed her sensitive colleagues.

Meanwhile, Covent Garden has had to rush in a Canadian conductor, Mario Bernardi, to rescue its production of *Massenet's Chérubin*, which opens on Monday. Bernardi, who is apparently a big name in Ottawa, replaces the maverick Russian maestro Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, who stands accused of conducting "too slowly". From a company that has Jeffrey Tate as its principal conductor, this seems odd. Insiders say that a more likely area of dispute was the Russian's reluctance to over-commit himself during rehearsals.

ROCK: Paul Sexton relives some Seventies grooves

## High-scoring funk

Ohio Players  
Jazz Café, NW1

This Camden club is developing the habit of producing legendary but half forgotten Seventies bands out of a hat. Last October they brought War back to Britain for the first time in a dozen years; the consensus among the Ohio Players was that it was even longer since their last visit, and the modest attendance at the first of a five-night engagement suggested that the memory test was beyond most.

Among the true forefathers of funk, the Players built a power base from their home town of Dayton that, like War, took them to a huge, integrated American audience throughout the 1970s. For audiences here never quite got the message, but their bawling average in the US was breathtaking: five gold albums, with half a million sales apiece in three years, two chart-topping singles and five gold 45s in all. The legend extended beyond

their music and on to their sleeves: the Players' albums famously featured a series of black women, bald and barely-clad, in sado-masochistic poses. Two members from their hazy days remain in the current five-piece line-up. Lead singer Leroy "Sugarfoot" Bonner still sports an admirable bouffant that a young James Brown himself would have prized, his moves and looks making him seem for all the world like Prince's papa.

Three younger Players joined Bonner and drummer James "Diamond" Williams in a jellied but spirited team performance. Guitarist Chet Willis, bassist Darwin Dorich and keyboard player Ronald Nooks have the same funky bones as the group's older

statesmen. And all five sang sweetly.

The accent as always was on grooves, and once established they liked to let them run in a relaxed spiral, often for ten minutes at a time, but their nevertheless economical performance never wandered too far from their specialist subject, the administering of fat-back funk and rich soul balladery. "Skin Tight" and "Sweet Sticky Thing" provided a healthy dose.

By the time the show was peaking, the audience had warmed to their unpretentious and affable manner and took an invigorating ride on "Love Rollercoaster", the Players' second US No 1 from 1975. The first, "Fire", from a year earlier, was given its due as their most famous 800g and made a festive encore. Soul music may have turned a few pages since Ohio was its capital, but this made for enjoyable re-reading.

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Richard Cork recalls how, as an 18-year-old student, he came face-to-face with the most revered artist of the century

# The day I drew Picasso

Even been at a distance, eating his lunch at an open-air restaurant in Cannes harbour, Picasso was instantly recognisable. I was an 18-year-old student, filling in time before university by travelling round Europe and Morocco in a battered and unreliable Bedford van. Having run out of money, I found a boat-painting job on the waterfront. But I spent much of the time drawing, and was lucky enough to be carrying an ample sketchbook when my encounter with the octogenarian artist took place.

By 1965, Picasso had become a fairly exclusive figure who spent most of his time shut away working high in the hills near Mougins. So I was doubly astonished to find him seated at a table with his wife, Jacqueline, and three companions. Without my friend's prompting, I would never have dared to walk over and ask for his signature. Nor did I imagine, as I nervously introduced myself and offered my sketchbook, that he would comply.

But my request was generously granted. Taking the large sheet I passed over, Picasso inscribed his name across the top of the paper. Then, as if unable to resist the blankness below, he added an exuberant linear flourish on the rest of the page. I saw these sprightly, billowing forms as a purely abstract image. But Picasso's art, even at its least representational, was usually anchored in observed reality. So the curves may well refer to a cloud, the wind-rippled sea or the shape assumed by Cannes harbour, dominating his lunchtime vantage.

Delighted, I thanked him and embarked on a halting conversation. Since Picasso's English was even poorer than my French, an extravagantly dressed American woman at the table acted as our interpreter. She kept describing him as "the Maestro", and it was difficult to combat her gushing interjections. But I did manage to tell Picasso of my voracious interest in art and my admiration for his work — especially the convulsive *Three Dancers*, which the Tate had just acquired from his own collection.

After a while, I returned to the boat and proudly displayed the fruit of my visit. But the friend who had encouraged me to introduce myself to Picasso could see that the lunch

party was still in progress. "Is that all?" he asked, looking at the signature. "Why on earth don't you go back and make the most of it? You won't get a chance like this again — and he probably wouldn't mind if you drew his portrait."

Sketchbook under arm, I approached Picasso's table again. I thought it wise not to ask him whether he'd mind having his portrait drawn: a refusal at this stage might have wrecked the whole delicate enterprise. So I simply stood by the table, propped my pad against an ironwork screen, got out

noticed how tough and alert he appeared, still taut in a blue-and-white striped jersey. As compact in build as a wrestler, the deeply tanned figure resembled an athletic 60-year-old rather than a man who would soon be celebrating his 84th birthday. I marvelled at the youthfulness of his clear, dark eyes, set with startling intensity in features remarkably unencumbered by the folds of slack flesh on so many elderly faces.

The eyes were mesmerising, and I tried to give them the necessary forcefulness. After fastening themselves on whatever they wanted to scrutinise, they did not blink until the unwavering gaze moved elsewhere. He also seemed curiously removed and alone, even though there was plenty of company near by. His engaging burst of buffoonery could not disguise an underlying gravity of spirit. Content to let his friends do most of the talking, he sat in a very private and absorbed silence, pursuing his own isolated interests undisturbed.

When the American lady told me that "the Maestro" wanted to see his portrait, I became embarrassed and replied that it wasn't good enough to show him. Picasso insisted, however, and after I passed my sketchbook over he gave my efforts a generous nod. Then, to my astonishment, he announced that he would now draw my portrait. I lost no time in giving him my conté crayon, and his hand applied a few swift, decisive strokes to the paper. In a matter of seconds, with beguiling assurance, he outlined a bearded face below the head which had taken me so many anxious minutes to produce.

He handed the pad back, and there was a drawing blithely at odds with my dogged strivings. Picasso had moved one eye on to my nose, and summarised my smile in a single, irresistibly vivacious line. I look like an excitable satyr who has strayed from one of his more lighthearted mythological compositions. Perhaps he saw me as an intruder from another world, peering in at him with all the gaudy curiosity of a young man amazed to find himself face to face with an artist I venerated.

At that time, Picasso was increasingly preoccupied with the absurd and painful difference between youth and old age: in March 1965,

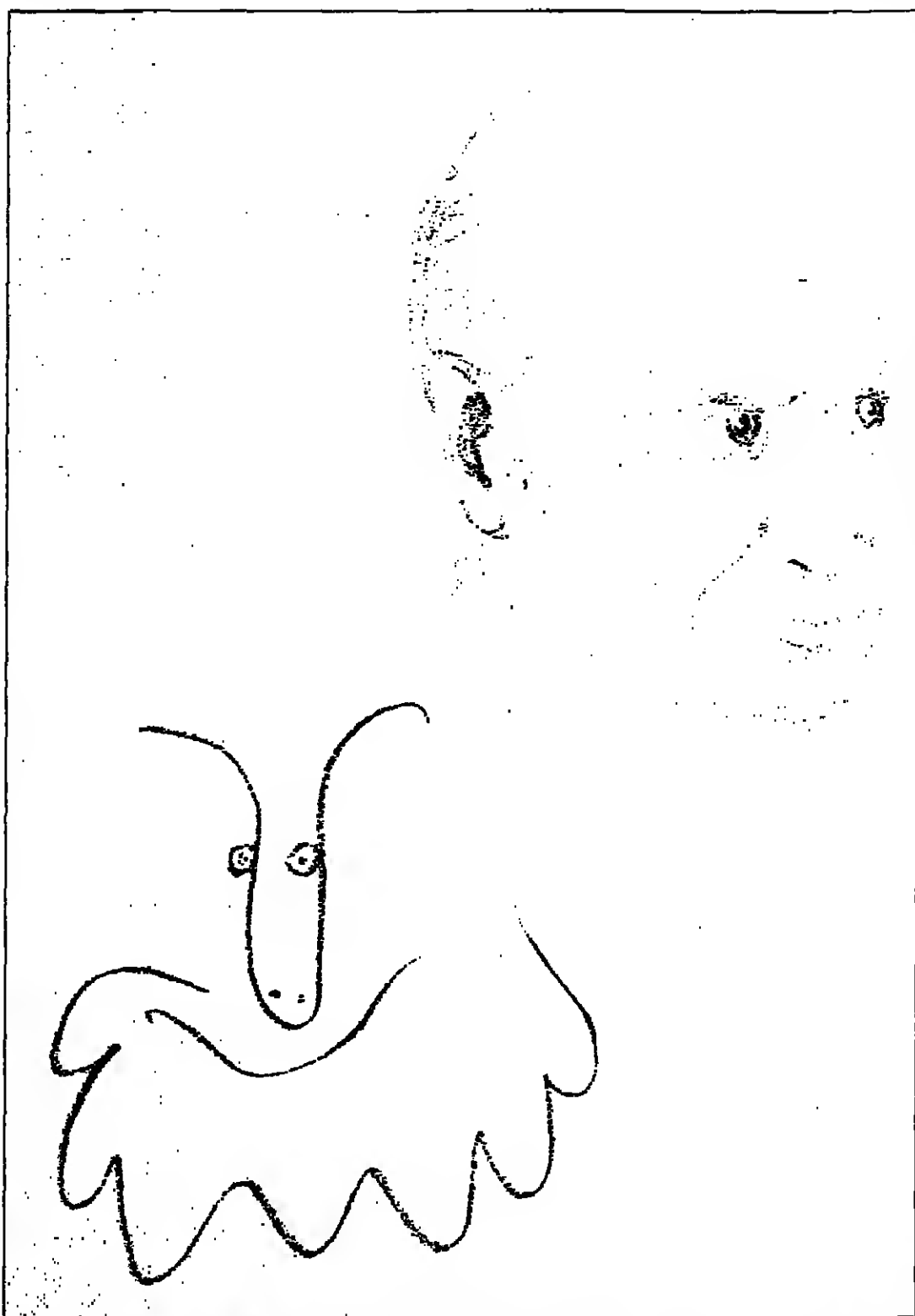


Portrait of the critic as a young artist: Richard Cork (bottom right) and friends (including actor Tim Curry, top left) in 1965

a stick of conté crayon and started to draw.

Once he noticed, Picasso grinned like an imp and made my task wickedly difficult. He acted out a range of expressions, both ridiculous and macabre — rolling his eyes, sticking out his tongue and brandishing his hands in fantastical shapes on either side of his forehead. The entire performance was carried out with the gusto of an instinctive clown. I was tempted to give up the struggle, but the sheer high spirits of my playful sitter seemed tantamount to a challenge. However obstructive his antics, I felt that he was testing my persistence, in order, perhaps, to discover the true extent of my determination.

As if to bear this out, Picasso at last relented and lapsed into repose. For a few extraordinary minutes, he deliberately gave me the chance to study him without impediment. I



Cork by Picasso, and Picasso by Cork: Picasso, who at the time was preoccupied with the difference between youth and old age, may have derived wry amusement from the juxtaposition of these faces

during a sustained bout of inventiveness, he had painted some 30 canvases on the obsessive theme of the ageing painter and his model. So he may have derived wry amusement from the juxtaposition of these two faces on the same page, and aimed to highlight their disparity by making my wide-eyed jauntiness oppose the sombre mood of his vigilant features.

I thanked Picasso, and asked him if he would be kind enough to sign the portrait drawing. After consultations, the American explained that

"the Maestro says you already have his signature". So there were limits to the beneficence he was prepared to bestow on me. All the same, I look back now and wonder at my good fortune. Meeting Picasso and, more important, receiving his attention meant an enormous amount. It made me realise that even this most prosaic and ungraspable of modern artists, whose achievements were often written about with an awe bordering on idolatry, remained at heart a man fired by an exuberant love of mark-making. Today, when I

view the sheet with the two portraits, I am impressed above all by the salutary contrast between my tentative draughtsmanship and the joyful, effortless virtuosity of the face summarised beneath. Just look at that smile.

The exhibition, *Picasso: Sculptor/Painter*, sponsored by Ernst and Young, opens at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-887 8000), next Wednesday and continues until May 8. A season of programmes about Picasso will be shown on BBC2 for a fortnight starting on Friday.

## From anarchy to order

DANCE: A Belgian iconoclast turns towards classicism

THE acclaimed Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker has chosen to celebrate the tenth anniversary of her company with *Toccata*, a new work of great simplicity and austere elegance. Keersmaecker, who established herself as the iconoclastic star of avant-garde Belgian dance, has now reinvented herself as a New Classicist, closer to Balanchine than to her anarchic Flemish contemporaries.

*Toccata* is based around the music of Bach. The stage at the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris is occupied by a polished wooden platform, a sculptural object which echoes the form of the grand piano. There are three chairs ranged along the back and on each side, precisely spool. In being able to create a spectacle with just lighting and furniture, Keersmaecker rivals Robert Wilson, her teacher.

Jos Van Immerseel comes on stage and begins to play, the lighting shifts and his playing is notably delicate, with all the relief of hearing live music. It is indicative of Keersmaecker's aesthetic that simply listening to Bach and watching lights on the chairs is so satisfying: dancers almost seem an intrusion.

When they do come out, three women and a man, they, too, are listening to the music, and wearing fashionably fluid black flares. One takes off her jacket and begins to dance, the others sit and watch. When the others join in, hanging jackets on chairs, it resembles an 18th-century social dance, a minor salon ball, except that each dances alone, not with a partner. The dance is as abstract as Bach's music, as the company fall or slide repeatedly to the floor. Keersmaecker's dancers are as well versed in floor-falls as any jugglers.

In an hour we are treated to variations in movement equivalent to Bach's musical variations, with nothing more than brilliant lighting by Remon Fromont. In the austerity of actions, costumes and set there is a real "minimalism" — one which some might find too chic, but one which nobody could fail to be refreshed by.

ADRIAN DANNATT

## Slowly but surely

Stephen Pettitt talks to the gifted and dedicated young violinist, Frank Peter Zimmermann

Frank Peter Zimmermann has four things in common with Nigel Kennedy: he earns his living from playing the violin; he likes football — Barcelona is his favoured team; he was a success early in life; and he has an exclusive contract with EMI. There all similarities end. On Friday this sophisticated, gently humorous and civilised man, ten years Kennedy's junior, plays the Beethoven Violin Concerto at the Barbican with the London Symphony Orchestra and André Previn. Afterwards they take the work to Germany. Beethoven yet again?

"I think the Beethoven is the greatest piece for the violin. There's no other Violin Concerto where you can show the same variety of violin playing. I've given about 60 performances in the last two years, but it still gets more challenging, more fascinating each time. So much depends on the conductor and orchestra. It's not like Saint-Saëns, with everybody doing a piece of accompaniment underneath you. It's a kind of symphony where you take part as one of the instruments. You have to find the roots of the orchestra."

That can be difficult, especially when you might have ideas about the seemingly inconsistent articulations of the finale, for instance. "I'm sure Beethoven wanted it like that, and sometimes I have to fight with conductors. In fact this is the only piece where I allow myself to stop the orchestra."

Despite his roughly fortnightly Beethoven, Zimmermann tries not to perform the other standard four or five concertos too often. He thinks that the base repertoire is broadening anyway. "Many violinists of my generation are starting to play a lot of modern



Zimmermann: "I admire old violinists like Milstein or Heifetz, who kept their careers alive by growing slowly"

music now. In Scandinavia you have to have at least one modern piece in each programme. It's a kind of law, and that is the right way."

Just recently he has added the Britten concerto to his repertoire; he plays it for the first time this month. With Maelzel in Pittsburgh. He has yet to commission a concerto, but would love to ask a composer like Henze.

Though concerto commitments constitute roughly 80 per cent of his workload, he still finds time for chamber music. "I just discovered the late chamber music of Fauré, and I've started playing the *Ives* sonatas. Very good music. Very hard." A similarly startling juxtaposition planned for next year is of Brahms's and Ligeti's horn trios, with as yet unspecified colleagues.

Zimmermann's hero is Nathan Milstein, and like that great violinist, he prefers to play on gut strings. They yield, he says, a greater variety of colour. Again like Milstein, he swears by a good Stradivarius. He owns a famous example,

the "Hilton" Strad. "If you don't know how to handle this kind of instrument it sounds scratchy. On any other violin the player can show the violin the direction he wants to go, but in this case the instrument's the master. It's like if you drive a normal car and then you sit in a Formula One car. If you don't know how to handle it, whoops, you're in the next wall. But you discover things you'd never discover with any other instrument."

Will Zimmermann still be playing as freshly, still looking for new things, in 30 years' time? "I can't say. I admire the old violinists like Milstein and Heifetz, who kept their careers alive by growing slowly. Nowadays when a record company discovers a new talent they record as much as possible as quickly as possible. By the age of 30 he gets bored, the company gets bored, and someone new comes along. But thankfully, — a grin — "I am a slow musician."

Frank Peter Zimmermann plays Beethoven with the LSO on Friday at the Barbican (071-436 8891)

MUSICAL CENTENARIES: Chabrier and Sax celebrated

## Party with a sizzle

ENP/Daniel Queen Elizabeth Hall

RARE is the occasion when critics and audiences share unanimous good humour. But there were smiles all round as the English Northern Philharmonia, under Paul Daniel's sturdy baton, commemorated the centenary of Emmanuel Chabrier's death with this sizzling party of a concert, which also featured eloquent readings by Robert Hardy of relevant extracts from the composers' and others' writings.

Probably the most outrageous piece of music was *Souvenirs de Munich*, for piano duet, played with due sunny abandon here by Roy Llobet and Roger Nichols (who also wrote the narration). The themes are Wagner's, from *Tristan und Isolde* no less, which work Chabrier adored, but this frothy, irreverent reworking is all Chabrier. If anything sounds as if it might get too serious or too long, a brusque chord summarily declares "Off with its head!", and off its head is jolly well chopped.

The eclectic Chabrier could be serious too. Here for in-

stance we heard the overture to his opera *Gwendoline*. It was hailed by some as Wagnerian, yet Chabrier cannot resist touches like the oompah accompaniment which gives the game away halfway through. More convincing was the powerful, densely scored *La Salomée* for mezzo-soprano (the heroic Ann Taylor-Morley), female chorus (from Opera North) and orchestra, a veritable whirlwind of inspiration which sometimes echoes or anticipates Berlioz, Debussy and Strauss.

The concert opened with the *Bourée Fontaine*, a late piano work which Chabrier began orchestrating but failed to finish. Robin Holloway has completed the job; this was the first time his results, deft and convincing, had been aired. Here as elsewhere Daniel seemed keener on brashness than on elegance. Even so, in this work and other extrovert pieces like the infectious *Morceau Joyeux*, the effervescent *Fête Polonoise* and the rampant *Danse Slave*, and the brilliant *España*, Daniel engineered swaggering and infectious rhythms; his orchestra, a disciplined and confident-sounding bunch these days, clearly enjoyed the romp.

Four-Morley also sang four songs with Roy Llobet at the piano. Both the touching "Chanson pour Jeanne" and the childlike "Ballade des gros dindeons" were tainted by her monochromatic tone and nervously vibrant vibrato. But she charmed us with the unvarying repetitions of "Que les amants ont de peine" and in the strophic naivety of "Les Métamorphoses".

STEPHEN PETTITT

## Sax in all its variations

Park Lane Group Queen Elizabeth Hall

WE WERE promised an Illustrated History of the Saxophone to celebrate the centenary of the instrument's inventor. What form this would have taken we shall never know. Neither Juliet Stephenson nor her replacement Miranda Richardson was able to make the show, so the script was abandoned and instead the Park Lane Group's Adolphe Sax Centenary Concert became a decidedly non-didactic, and hugely enjoyable, survey of the members of the saxophone family and the varied music associated with them.

There was, in truth, very little music to be heard from the 19th century. A number of French composers — Bizet, Massenet and Thomas among them — exploited the instrument's expressive potential in their scores, and that spawned a whole repertoire by lesser composers.

The closest we got to that was a couple of transcriptions

to play Dave Heath's meditative *Dreams* and exuberant fantasy *Shiraz* "concurrently", raising spectres of John Cage, but in the event he gave one after the other in conventional fashion.

The first high spot of the evening had been the cool, exquisitely modulated tone of Dave Roach, in a couple of Edith Piaf numbers and his own *Love Is*. A short set by the old master Ronnie Scott (who had previously delivered a humorous potted autobiography) and his Trio, John Critchinson and Andy Clynder, was followed by the final group of arrangements made and conducted by Ted White. The ensemble for these ranged from the soprano to the bass saxophone, with everything in between, and while the arrangements made mastery, and witty, use of the characters of each instrument.

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Peter Ackroyd marvels at the survival of Victorian values but argues that their decline will uncover older notions of "Englishness"

## Inverted Victorianism

I used to be fashionable to cite the "modernity" of Victorian writers like Robert Browning and George Eliot; but the question ought not to be what is 20th-century about the Victorians but, rather, what remains 19th-century about us. The editors of this intriguing volume, for example, find a powerful and persistent current of ideas which were formulated in the 1850s and which endured into our own time — the belief in public morality, in the market economy, and in the familial virtues, was the defining ideal of English civilisation for more than a century. From this perspective, then, the book could be seen as a study in national decline; it might be said that the values of Victorian civilisation barely survived the Great War and the rise of the Labour Party before succumbing to the more meretricious aspects of English social life after the Second World War.

But a more complicated and interesting process has actually been at work. In a series of biographical essays (in posthumous honour of the historian, John Clive) the contributors describe the survival of a 19th-century "intelligentsia" which adapted Victorian principles to the various phenomena of the 20th century — in particular, to the turmoil over conventional sexual roles, the rise of the corporate state, and the advent of mass culture. It is said that a great family can go to seed within three

**AFTER THE VICTORIANS**  
Private Conscience and Public Duty in Modern Britain  
Edited by Susan Pedersen and Peter Mandler  
Routledge, £40

generations, but can the same truth be applied to nations?

The first case advanced is that of Henrietta Barnet, a woman born in the mid-19th century who devoted her life to "social action", but who managed to manipulate her individualistic and campaigning role within the accepted Victorian ideals of marriage. She has now disappeared from history, but she remains a very English type — the active, energetic and committed woman who conceals her real dominance by presenting herself as the orthodox "wife". This exemplary story is followed by an essay on George Lefroy, the very Victorian Bishop of Calcutta, who signally failed to convert the Indians but who left behind an institutional framework of hospitals and colleges which still survives; here again a typical example of Victorian



Eleanor Rathbone, E.M. Forster and J.B. Priestley represent a postscript to Victorian England

an "Englishness" whose passing we might feel cause to lament.

A more complicated example of the same phenomenon is explored in the life of Raymond Unwin. He was an Edwardian architect and town-planner, a democrat and socialist whose Victorian ideals of nationhood and liberal progress prevented him from understanding the realities of a more strident class system. He possessed "the high-mindedness characteristic of so many late Victorian social

reformers" but spoke only of "individuals" and "communities" without ever coming to terms with the power of modern class or state. Unwin's choice of career as an architect also emphasises another theme of this book: there are several examples here of late Victorians who entered professions with the same moral seriousness that their predecessors had applied to church or government.

But in the process the crisis of the liberal intelligentsia actually

became more acute, because their role in the professions or in social work meant that they came to accept the demands of the "enabling state" in a way which their parents could never have done. The case of Lord Reith is also proffered here: his commitment to public service and the public good echoed the words of Matthew Arnold, and yet he was also a child of the new time who attached those same values to a belief in collectivism and mass technology.

The essay on Eleanor Rathbone puts a similar point very well. She was a late Victorian who became a social reformer and a member of Parliament in the best 19th-century tradition of enlightened public service but she, too, became convinced of the efficacy of "state intervention". These inheritors of the Victorian dispensation actively colluded in their own demise: once they had accepted the concept of the active and enabling state, their role as individual reformers and moralists was inevitably eclipsed.

The essay here on E.M. Forster occupies more familiar territory but it manages to emphasise the other half of the Victorian inheritance — while some late Victorians maintained the standards of the old century within public service, others like Forster applied the same rectitude and moralism to the world of private relationships. That connection between public duty and private morality is explored in the life of Leonard Woolf; he believed that he was committed to generally "civilised" values, but in fact they were essentially Victorian values.

It might be said that the career of J.B. Priestley provides an idiosyncratic model within these very public themes. He was a writer

who devoted himself to celebrating what were also Victorian values of "self-help, self-culture, thrift and moral sobriety", but who argued that they were being subverted by the forces of the new century. In the end he despaired of an England which seemed to be drowning in a "mess of irresponsibility, mean devices and self-deception". If he believed that in the 1960s, what words of wrath would he have chosen for the 1990s?

But he was wrong to despair. He lamented the passing of a specific set of values, established in the mid-19th century, but there was no reason to confuse them with "Englishness" itself. The decline of one notion of Englishness may in fact lead to the resurgence of another — it is possible that the English may reacquire the licentiousness and vulgar energy of their mid-18th century forebears, for example, or the spiritual intensity of their ancient Catholic ancestors. The contemporary campaign espousing "back to basics" is in this context an absurdity — the "basics" of this nation are just as likely to be the trillions of Stonehenge as the "three Rs" of the Victorian school curriculum. There are no "basics", only layers of previously acquired identities which persist through time. After *The Victorians* marks the decline of one such identity, but perhaps we can now look forward to the re-emergence of another.

## The virtual reality of war

Television sells books. Ask Delia Smith. Entirely sensible, therefore, to put Sandy Gall's face on the dustcover — he did present *News at Ten* for 20 years, after all. The features are rugged and battered — a cross between W.H. Auden in late middle-age and the Old Man of Hoy. Sandy being more of a unisex name in America than here, the anchorman of ABC's breakfast show once assumed he was female and cued him into a live interview from Afghanistan accordingly. As Gall was all dressed up as a *mujahid* at the time the frisson must have been considerable. That's show business.

We read a lot about Gall's adventures with the *mujahidin*, but also travel with him to Pakistan in the 1970s, to Vietnam and Cambodia and to the Gulf. Born in Penang, brought up in Scotland, Gall has been reporting since 1953 and his work has been variously recognised — a CBE, the Lawrence of Arabia Medal, the Star of Pakistan.

The book does not have much shape, and Gall can be careless of detail — Zulfikar Bhutto was many things in his time, but was neither President of the Oxford Union nor an alumnus of Berkeley. Gall likes some foreigners more than others: "Unlike male Oriental giggling, which is frankly embarrassing, female

Ian McIntyre

**NEWS FROM THE FRONT**  
The Life of a Television Reporter  
By Sandy Gall  
Heinemann, £16.99



Gall finds his adventure

Original giggling is delightful. A well-connected businessman first encountered in St. Moritz is OK (as far as I know he is the only Saudi who is a member of the Cresta); the Thanh Loi Hotel in Hanoi, on the other hand, "was inhabited exclusively by large, overweight Russian technicians and their wives", and for them the eye of the needle was uncomfortably narrow.

In television, the picture is king and language sits well below the salt. Gall's adjectives, therefore, tend to the

tabloid: cavalry regiments are "crack"; the Chinese cultural imprint on Vietnam is "indelible"; the late lamented Reggie Bosanquet is "inimitable".

If this makes less than compelling reading, it does suggest, perhaps unintentionally, serious questions about journalistic independence and the proper distance between journalists and officialdom.

Writing about the Gulf war, Gall utters a "vituperative word or two" about the censoring effect of the pool system. Accredited correspondents were subject to "military discipline and, needless to say, military incompetence". It was "the negation of good journalism". Elsewhere, however, it emerges that Gall sometimes judged he might leave his journalistic chastity belt more loosely fastened.

"Every schoolboy of my generation," he writes, "had read some Kipling." Possibly John Buchan and Bulldog Drummond, too. Lunching with someone from the intelligence service he hears of a young Afghan guerrilla leader who is thought to have the makings of a second Tito: "The words cut through the babble in the restaurant like a sword, shimmering in a smoky haze. It sounded like the adventure I had been looking for."

A small ethical question obtruded. Was an adventure still an adventure if it acquired some of the attributes of a

facilities trip? The idea was General Zia's, who had remarked to Mrs Thatcher that "people like Sandy Gall must be encouraged to report what is happening in Afghanistan". The plan was that he should go in with a group of *mujahidin* who were to mount operations against Soviet and Afghan regime targets. "Zia wants to give you a personal protection squad of Pakistani Special Forces just in case anything goes wrong."

Gall did not take long to hack his way out of this moral maze. He was soon strolling with Zia among the roses of his Islamabad garden. Might they, he enquired, be killed out with some SAM 7s? They were likely to encounter Mi24 gunships — it would make some spectacular pictures if one of them was shot down.

They crossed the frontier west of Peshawar, dressed in baggy trousers and with flat Chitrail *pukals* on their heads. It was the freest to end all freesties. A film crew operating under Special Forces protection, and equipped not only to bring to our screens the reality of war, but also to give that reality a corrective nudge if it turned out to be less exciting than the viewer has a right to expect.

The camera, of course, as every generation of schoolboy knows, never lies.



St Peter and St Dorothy, a detail from the St Bartholomew Altarpiece in the Sainsbury wing, the National Gallery

## What's in a name?

Bruce Boucher

**A VICTIM OF ANONYMITY**  
The Master of the Saint Bartholomew Altarpiece  
By Neil MacGregor  
Thames & Hudson, £6.95

THE WALTER Neurath Lectures have been an occasion for distinguished critics and scholars to survey a theme or artistic career for a quarter century. In the latest volume in the series, the director of the National Gallery deals with a German Renaissance artist known as the Master of the St Bartholomew Altarpiece. The subject is appropriate to the series, paying an indirect tribute to the Germanic origins of Neurath himself while drawing attention to a neglected painter whose meagre oeuvre is well represented in the Gallery.

The Bartholomew Master is hardly a name to conjure with, but his "existence" is symptomatic of the approach to German Renaissance art in vogue during the last century. Cologne was a great commercial and religious centre from the Middle Ages and enjoyed a flourishing school of art in the 15th century, yet, despite a plethora of documents concerning its artists, there are no surviving contracts or signed paintings. Even the most celebrated altarpiece of the Cologne School, Stefan Lochner's *Adoration of the Kings* was only identified by a passing comment in one of Dürer's notebooks. The oeuvre of

Lochner and his unidentified contemporaries were pieced together through the kind of taxonomical studies that led to groups of painting being named by the chief work of the artist's hand, hence the Master of the Life of the Virgin and the Bartholomew Master.

German Renaissance art fell victim to the Nazi propaganda machine in the 1930s, and it subsequently became taboo for post-war German scholars. Now revisionist studies have called into question which panel painting Dürer was shown in Cologne Cathedral, and it has also been suggested that far from

being a German painter, the Bartholomew Master may well have been Netherlandish. Neil MacGregor sees the absence of a name for so many Northern Renaissance painters as one of the obstacles to their study and enjoyment; art history has long been dominated by the Italian model in which even minor artists can be paired with their works. When we go to a gallery or exhibition, we are drawn by names like Titian or Michelangelo, rather than the Master of the Virgin Inter Virgines.

MacGregor sets in train a number of suggestive ideas in his lecture, among them ruminations on the power of names, the shifting sands on which the concept of "national" schools of art are constructed, and the levels of reality employed by the Bartholomew Master in the few paintings securely attributable to him. He concludes that if names give us power over things, then nameless things preserve some power over us, wrapped as they are in an elusive mystery.

MacGregor is an urbane and thoughtful author, demonstrating the skills that have already made him such a successful director of the National Gallery. Perhaps

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# Pornography is unsexy, NB

Rachel Cusk unmasks Nicholson Baker's novel as a gimmicky attempt to sanitise his literary love affair with pornography

Like a new-fangled kitchen appliance, Nicholson Baker's *The Fermata* appears ingenious to some, while others wonder only whether he is really necessary. His first two novels, *The Mezzanine* and *Room Temperature*, were discourses on disposability, mundane monologues concerning shoe-laces and paper straws, designed to elicit the lowest common denominator of empathy — recognition — from his readers. Chronicling boredom is evidently big business, and Baker's popularity could only increase with *Vow*, a novel which marked the onset of his sudden but apparently incurable obsession with sex.

*The Fermata*, his new novel, loiters around the same sensation-alist territory but goes a gimmick further. Its protagonist is an amateur pornographer who can pause time by snapping his fingers. He uses his ability not only to examine women's breasts but also to make lengthy observations about the world exceeding even those one has come to expect from Baker but which the space-time continuum normally keeps in check.

The book has no dust-jacket, being clothed in what can only be described as dust-brown: a sealed paper band which must be broken before its contents can be. It is insinuated, pawed, this band somewhat tautologically promises us "an hilarious comedy", consisting of "sexual fantasy" and, less believably, "fantastic sexuality".

Dispensing with the band, one is free to wander in what should be a veritable orchard of forbidden fruit; for example this from a lengthy passage on washing machines: "Often the spun goods display on removal a pattern of raised dots, where the fabric has vainly tried to pour itself out of the holes in the spinning basket in the wake of the water it has just reluctantly released." Or this on sunbathing: "I closed my eye and opened it again, and this time I looked only at my glasses, and it seemed to me then that the very best thing about sunbathing was that you could

open your eyes at any time and see your own companionable glasses waiting for you."

Of course there is also ample reference to dildos, anal sex, vibrators, masturbation and breasts of all sizes, to the point where one would almost welcome back the odd washing machine; for Arno Strine, our narrator, is a part-time pornographer and must by necessity possess a lurid sexual imagination. During his time-stopping episodes, however, when the world is victim to his sole powers of movement and thought, his mischief is relatively mild.

He is, or is at least supposed to be, a sexual philanthropist. Often he devotes the interlude to bringing

attention on Nancy Friday-style female sexual fantasies, worship of the female orgasm, etc.

The problem with this kind of heavily intended narrative is that, given the absurdity of the novel's time-pausing premise, Baker presents us with a world which belongs neither to fantasy nor reality. The limits of his what-if story are never really tested; in other hands, the idea of stopping the universe could yield interesting results, but Baker immediately withdraws from what might be demanded of him with a series of tortuous explanations as to why he isn't interested in doing anything with his powers other than using them to take off women's blouses.

It soon becomes unclear why the time-pausing device is needed at all, when many of Strine's intrigues could be effected with a modicum of ingenuity in the normal course of things. As an allegory it is too mundane; as a comedy it is overly wracked with self-explanation. One can only assume that Baker wanted to write about pornography, and came up with a means of doing so without incurring any debts to the representation of reality.

The pornography itself, written by Arno and put in the paths of various women for their delectation, largely concerns the exploits of a librarian called Marian who is given to attempting crazed feats of excessive penetration in the privacy of her own home with an Armande Klockhammer Signature Model. After reading it, one woman goes home and masturbates; another throws it away in disgust.

There is the potential here for Baker to make more of the loneliness and dislocation of his characters, their isolated sexual self-reliance; the "fermata" or time-fold which Strine enters could be the social medium of a dysfunctional modernity, an area in which communication and love function because they are simplified by one-sidedness. Strine's recollections of his ex-girlfriend Rhody are beset by misunderstanding and complexity, while the fermata's mannequins

THE FERMATA  
By Nicholson Baker  
Chatto & Windus, £14.99

some sort of happiness to a woman chosen at random, which usually involves subliminally arousing her and then watching her reaction from a distance. "When I am in a fold, I know for a fact that no woman anywhere is crying or feeling betrayed, and... I want above all for women not to cry."

He even asks other people how they would behave if given his powers, and their replies are held up as proof of his sensitivity: "I'd find the nicest, best-looking chick I could find," says one man. "I'd haul her off somewhere secluded and hose the shit out of her until my dick was sore." Arno's peerings and gropings, of course, his "perennial wish to insert some novelty into the lives of women", seem innocuous by comparison. He is intended to cut a sad figure, prevented by the difficulty of explaining his "gift" from finding a partner and driven towards benevolent voyeurism. His fantasies are all carefully detoxified to comply with the standards set by the regulatory bodies now monitoring the world of ideas: no violence or threat of violence against women, almost exclusive concern-



Nicholson Baker: his novels about boredom and sex sell very well, but is he really necessary?

are easy to love. The only relationships in which Strine can function are those where he exists.

Even if this is *The Fermata*'s message, the novel is too contrived

to effect its successful communication. Baker can be a comic and articulate writer, and his observations on the currency of the prosaic accurate and germane. His self-

consciousness, however, is betrayed by his love of "concepts", devices which are in danger of providing nothing but a barrier to what he might actually be saying.

## Lays of the great god Pan

Philip Howard

THE PAN PRINCIPLE  
By Fiona Pitt-Kethley  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £16.99

comes to feel that Pan himself, traduced by early Christians as the devil, is blocking her. A funny thing keeps on happening to her on the way to the temple, and it usually leaves her boot-marks on the roof of the car in which she has hitched a ride.

Never mind. It all goes into this anecdotal jaunt, which is more about the failure to find shrines to Pan than finding them. As a travel romance in an English art form that stretches from "Sir John Mandeville" to James Fenton and Jan Morris, it is surprisingly engaging.

Like all good eggs, Pitt-Kethley is a cat-lover, feeding even the emaciated and ravenous Greek cats with her breakfast egg from the British School at Athens. She loves swimming and washing and massage. She is on the side of underdogs: Turks in Greece, Arabs in Israel. She walks everywhere in espadrilles, silk shirts and other wildly unsuitable gear and talks to everyone in Greece, where nobody except shepherds walks anywhere, and even they do it only on their own particular side of the mountain.

Every other male drives ferociously in a dangerous car, honking his horn to proclaim his virility. Continually she is redirected to the Panorama Mini Market instead of Pan's cave. On Greek neglect of the environment, from the cheap and nasty sprawl of Athenian suburbs to their harrow of archaeology, she tells the unfashionable truth.

Pitt-Kethley has recognised that misfortunes and cock-ups, especially with idiosyncratic Pan, make good copy, and lays them on lavishly. She is wonderfully superstitious, keen on daft old Tolkien,

disorganised, and honest about the penurious hazards of life as a freelance writer. In Sparta she finds a strangely lifelike mosaic of Alcibiades that sticks in her mind, even at times when she cannot quite remember who he was. When she speculates about the covert meaning of mythology, you wish she would get back to basking.

This is an anecdotal book of amazing adventures around the wilder and dimmer parts of Greece, surprisingly full of romance and foolhardiness and naive wisdom. It cannot have taken long to write, and it does not take long to read. Pitt-Kethley gets the dusty awfulness and incompetence of Greek museums outside Athens, and the bang-ups of Greek males at sex, and even the strangeness of the goat-legged, wild Nature god Pan right. It would be a mistake to sneer at her classical finds.

She seldom finds what she is looking for, and her sexual encounters with the bionic biker and the others are as unresponsive as her analysis of Pan. I think she puts them in because they are now expected of her. As a guide around the parts of Greece that nobody gets to and ideas that are unfashionable, she is good fun. But you should think twice before going on a jaunt with her. And if you go for it, pack boots, contraceptives, and a sense of humour.



Fiona Pitt-Kethley: a good egg

## Roman rites and wrongs

Harriet Paterson

THE CHIMERA  
By Sebastiano Vassalli  
Translated by Patrick Creagh  
HarperCollins, £15.99

THE MISSING PAGES  
By Cristina Comencini  
Translated by Gregory Dowling  
Chatto & Windus, £9.99

Antonia's increasing beauty is an exceptional event in this brutish world and she attracts undue attention and, inevitably, malice. What Vassalli begins as a pastoral scene from Bruegel ends in a Bosch inferno as the mob closes in. Behind a merry facade of the peccadilloes of parish priests and randy peasants he depicts real evil in the festering rumours of the village gossips, the misogynistic cruelty of the Inquisitor and the bestiality of Antonia's torturers.

A magnificent vocabulary is called forth to do battle with such forces, translated with gusto by Patrick Creagh. The Spanish Gov-

ernor of Novara is "as dauntless a lecher as ever ripped off codpiece", and after him come other memorable grotesques, Il Caccetta (the little turd) whose stunted legs are "enough to raise a chuckle from a rickety (sic) chicken". Such writing is pure enjoyment — very good news for struggling Italian narrative literature.

In high contrast to the rude realities of this agrarian world, Cristina Comencini's first novel, *The Missing Pages*, contains no certainties and a shrinking from physicality. Set 400 years later, fears have become disembodied, the insecurities of the over-analytical 20th-century mind: nothing so easy as wolves, witches and devils.

The youngest daughter of a bourgeois Roman family stops talking. Federica gradually grows more silent, then finds she cannot talk even when she tries. This strange absent presence of hers unnerves everyone, unsettling their former relationships. The more they try to probe her, the more they actually reveal themselves: "It was their own hidden truths that their words exposed, while Federica

was left with her mystery intact."

Not even she understands this mystery. A blank in her memory coincides with pages ripped from her diary: a trauma which her mind has cancelled. "Pandemonium has come upon us. Utter confusion," writes her father Guido, whose role as businessman and detached, intellectual father is crumbling.

THIS IS a sensitive exploration of a father and daughter attempting to redefine their own identities and their relationship with each other. They are the only two characters with any real substance, and even they are deliberately fugitive and indefinable by nature. Their awkwardness and fear when they are alone together are so intimately revealed as to leave the reader positively uncomfortable.

Events are sparse and physical descriptions minimal, letting the weight fall on internal development. Short, plain sentences and brief chapters provide a clean format, giving a measure of control to all the doubt, self-questioning and unfinished attempts at reasoning which fill the book.

This hesitant rite of passage reflects the phase Italy is currently passing through, haunted by unsolved crimes with the entire post-war establishment on trial. As in Comencini's book, while everything has now been questioned, very little has as yet been answered.

## After the Alamo

Claire Messud

EMPIRE  
By Terry Coleman  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £15.99

AMERICA BY LAND  
By Robert Olmstead  
Secker, £8.99 pbk original

I was Archibald MacLeish who wrote of America, in an accurate but not particularly good poem: "Neither a place it is nor a blood name." Rather, he suggests, it is "a shining thing in the mind". America as a glowing promise is everywhere in the nation's literature; now it has resurfaced yet again, in two very different narratives that take the landscape and his people as their subjects.

*Empire*, the latest historical novel by the author and journalist Terry Coleman, is set in the mid-19th century and deals with the fate of Texas, which was briefly an independent republic under the leadership of the formidable Sam Houston, before its annexation in 1845. At the story's core are Houston's (real-life) relationship with his Scottish mistress Lucy Moncreiffe, and his dream of an expanding Texas empire of which he would be the virtual monarch.

In the Texan ambassador's description to young Lady Lucy before her departure for the New World, this Texas is revealed as a mythical paradise: "You will see prairies clothed with long grasses, and among the grasses, flowers. It is as if the countryside is enamelled with flowers... And grapes growing wild for the picking, and wild horses to be had for the rounding up..." After landing at Galveston, Lucy discovers all this to be so, but also comes up against discomfort, danger, misery, seething resentments and quickly changing loyalties.

Coleman's research, not only into the major historical events but also into the customs and temper of the time, is clearly meticulous and often enlightening, in particular as it sets out the political back and forth in which Houston played the US against Britain and France, in the hope of securing his vision's future. But this fine historical work is intertwined with a fairly primitive novelistic development of romance and, indeed, of characterisation; and the two aspects of the narrative are uncomfortably married. Though the book is enjoyable enough, it is not ultimately clear why those reading *Empire* for its historical interest would not turn instead to pure history, or why those seeking the thrill of romance would not opt for a more accomplished example of the genre.

Robert Olmstead's *America by Land* also mingles archetypal romance — between a young drop-out named Raymond Romeo Redfield and his cousin, Juliet — with the "shining thing in the mind" that is America. It is a contemporary road novel, the most recent in a well-travelled American genre — a fact of which Olmstead's mock-heroic tone takes full account.

Romeo and Juliet wander the West on Redfield's Harley, each with their own dreams. Redfield, injured in a construction accident, is on a pilgrimage to the scenes of his father's youth, while Juliet mourns the baby she has given up for adoption. Their adventure consists of magnificent landscapes, magnificently described, and of encounters with eccentrics. But their reactions and their dialogue are parodic. Redfield talks like this: "America the beautiful. I can see this all as beautiful and I can see it all as ugly. I travel to see the land, not the people, and I like the land at night better than the day. I don't want to be a citizen. I just want to live here. Right now I need to go for beauty."

Not even Olmstead's abundant self-consciousness can save this narrative, told too often and already, too often, hijacked by film. In spite of its passages of glorious prose, the novel reads like a rehashing of those innumerable films starring Nicholas Cage in lizard-skin cowboy boots.

It is a shame that Olmstead's gamble with the ultimate American metaphor does not pay off better, because there is brilliance in his writing. But ultimately the shining vision in the mind of Raymond Romeo Redfield is too close to the cliché: one wishes that his America had a more unusual glow.

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## Devilish shrinks

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

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By Fay Weldon  
HarperCollins, £12.99

This is a combatively rationalist novel full of weirdly supernatural events. Its satire is directed against New Agey in general and pseudo-Jungian mumbo-jumbo in particular, yet by the end there are negative archetypes swooping and whistling and screeching down the posh North London crescent which is its setting.

Spicer, a middle-class wine merchant, has been carried off by Saturn and Rhea child-devouring deities of primordial darkness, otherwise known as Drs Herman and Rhea Marks, a husband-and-wife team of Hampstead psychotherapists. Annette, Spicer's wife, has nearly died from the effects of wearing bewitched jewellery and lost her baby to the devil before finally achieving her happy ending in the company of a sensible cynic, whose jolly name, Ernie, exactly suits his reassuringly worldly and mercenary nature. There is no mistaking Fay Weldon's suspicion of therapists and their arcana, but she certainly likes a touch of the mythic herself.

The narrative is all talk: conversations in bed, in the consulting room, in the ante-natal clinic and, above all, over the telephone. Annette's best friend Gilda has had to get a mobile phone so that she can receive all of Annette's frequent and confessional calls and still manage to take a bath. It would be possible to convert this novel into a radio play simply by waving a blue pencil over it.

The premise is simple. Tell a woman (or a man for that matter) often enough that she's mad and she'll begin to believe you. And once she believes you she'll be mad indeed. Implicit in the ostensibly flip narrative is an awful warning against the misuses of therapy. "You have joined the ranks of ladies-in-treatment," jeers Spicer. "Now at last my Annette can hold her head up in the cafes and coffee shops... Oh to be a lady of leisure and the doors of the soul held open wide."

This is nasty of Spicer, who is seeing a therapist himself. It is also exaggerated. In Britain — even, I

suspect, in Hampstead — it is the desperate rather than the pampered who seek such help. But the power of a psychotherapist, who has the combined authority of the doctor and the priest, is potentially dangerous (as all good therapists know). Weldon shows a pair of unscrupulous practitioners using that power to calamitous effect.

Their most insidious method is obfuscation. The clogged opacity of Dr Rhea's language — "a personality embracing the spontaneity of consciousness, that is the say yourself" — is a nice reminder of how sprightly and clear Weldon's prose is when she's not imitating her. Dr Rhea and her husband are a risible pair of pantomime devils — Weldon's tone is light and easy — but the fact remains that Spicer, who once had a robust appetite for bacon sandwiches and marital sex, is reduced by their tampering to a cruel and anxious faddist.

*Affliction* snaps and crackles along. Only Spicer sounds stilted and unnatural. ("You are the cleft in the hill and I am the tree") and that's because he's supposed to. Weldon's dialogues are salty and smartly-paced, and she plots out the unfair games people play with exactitude. Poor Annette discovers, to her exasperation but the reader's entertainment, that once you have been put in the wrong, it is all but impossible to get out of it.

This is, in the non-derogatory sense, a highly artificial novel. The possession of Spicer by the devilish Doctors Marks happens all of a moment. It's a given condition of the narrative, as inexplicable in realistic terms as Lear's abdication. But within the cartoon-crudity of her plot Weldon has managed to pack enough shrewdly observed human reality to make this a perceptive and amusing novel.

CARDINALS, whores and hangmen, pardoners, idiots, rogues and rustics: these are the cast of Sebastiano Vassalli's remarkable and immensely readable tale of northern Italy during the Counter-Reformation. The tiny village of Zardino blazes briefly into history when its inhabitants haul a witch from their midst and deliver her up to the Inquisitor. This terrible and true story, in which the forces of good and evil clash over the head of the 20-year-old "witch" Antonia, is observed through Vassalli's all-seeing, Boccaccian eye, alert to the frailties and ironies of humanity.

Antonia is a founding adopted into the rural backwater of Zardino, a still-medieval world where idiots are castrated and female children drowned at birth. Death and the devil are ever-present, kept only temporarily at bay by the sinister vigilante "Christian Brethren" who circle the village at night dressed in hoods like the later Ku-Klux-Klan.

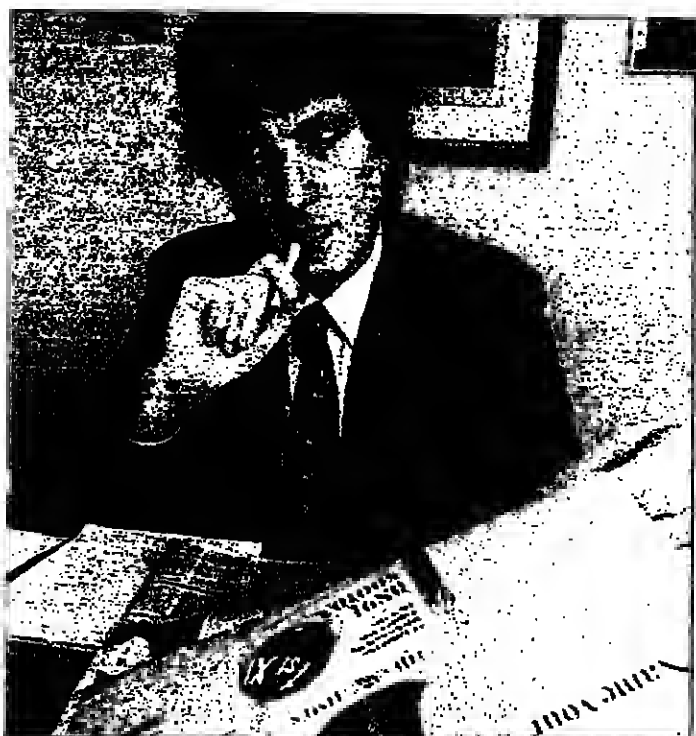
Behind the brilliantly observed minutiae of village life around 1610, both hilarious and horrible, Vassalli hangs a wider backdrop of the Roman Catholic Church, split over the repercussions of the Council of Trent. The local bishop is sickened and humiliated by the "stagnant, hypocritical Church" of Pope Clement VIII, and his insomniac spiritual struggles which last into the "albino dawns" are a high point of the book.







# Atherton well equipped to cope with torrid reception



Willis considers his team for The Times 1st XI game

I was very tempted to choose my 1st XI by tactical voting and include players such as Matthew Maynard, Ian Salisbury, Alan Igglesden and Andrew Caddick — none of whom I expect to play a prominent role in the internationals — and thereby score highly by giving them low totals. In the end, though, I decided to name the team I would want to see on the field if I was in charge.

Fitness allowing, England will do better in the Caribbean than a lot of people think. I can see them winning the one-day series and giving a good account of themselves in the Test matches, even if they do not come out on top. As to whether they have taken the right team or not, that is all water under the bridge. One way or another, we are about to find out whether these young lads can play.

If a key member of the bowling attack is injured, though, it could be vital. I would not fancy England's chances if Angus Fraser, for instance, was to break down early on. Such things are always a possibility. I bowled only seven overs before flying home

Bob Willis, the former England captain, picks his 1st XI to take on West Indies in the Test and one-day international series, which start next week

from the West Indies in 1981 and there have already been worries about the participation of Caddick.

What England must do is field a settled side. They must not treat the Tests and one-day games differently, as they did in India last winter, when one-day specialists such as Fairbrother, Blakey and Reeve were taken ahead of top-quality players. This means not getting into a pickle over the wicketkeeper. Jack Russell must play in the Tests and the one-day internationals.

The West Indies bowlers will give Michael Atherton a torrid reception. They will single him out for the special attention they reserve for all opposing captains, but he has the mental strength to handle it. I have a lot of faith in his leadership. Alec Stewart, who likes the pace of the new ball coming on to the bat, will do

especially well and finish as the leading run scorer with 563 runs.

I do not think Mark Ramprakash, who should go in first wicket down in the Tests, will score as many runs as some of the other batsmen because I do not expect him to bat as high in the one-day internationals. The No 3 position for these games may be taken over by Smith, who might nevertheless find himself sacrificing his wicket after a big opening partnership by Atherton and Stewart. As the best player of fast bowling in the side, Smith will score heavily in the Tests and finish second only behind Stewart, with 510 runs in all.

Graeme Hick will make a lot of one-day runs and will also do better in the Tests than he did against West Indies in 1991. He is far more mentally mature now. He may also get through quite a lot of bowling, which is why I

have given him nine wickets. I have named as my sixth batsman Graham Thorpe, although, judging by the way Hughes bounced him out in the first innings of the Trent Bridge Test last summer, he has a problem against the short ball. But then, who hasn't?

Like Hick, Chris Lewis is facing his last chance to prove he can make the most of his talent. He will probably see the start of the Test series but may not be around for the end. He will, however, be sure of a role in the one-day internationals, which should

boost his totals to 135 runs and 21 wickets.

I cannot find a place in my side for a spinner. Salisbury gives away too many runs and Phil Tufnell, who has a suspect temperament, does not tour well. In any case, Fraser, Devon Malcolm and Steve Watkins have won the right to play in the first Test match by virtue of their performances in the Oval Test against Australia alone.

Fraser has a vital role to play and I will have my fingers crossed for him. I would play him in the first one-day international in Barbados — because a win there would be an important boost before the first Test three days later — and then rest him from the four other one-day games, which all come before the second Test. He will, nevertheless, take 30 wickets.

Malcolm will also thrive. He did well on his last tour of the Caribbean and is now playing under a more sympathetic captain. He was not well handled by Gooch. I have given him 27 runs but even that might be too many.

BOB WILLIS'S 1ST XI	
	Runs Wickets
Russell (wicketkeeper)	215 22
Stewart	563 0
Atherton	490 0
Ramprakash	310 0
Smith	510 0
Hick	480 9
Thorpe	240 1
Lewis	135 21
Fraser	92 30
Watkins	33 21
Malcolm	27 24

## Win a trip to the Melbourne Test

# Name your side to triumph in the West Indies

The aim of the game: Readers are invited to pick their England cricket XI from the party in the West Indies and estimate the players' individual performances in the five one-day internationals and five Test matches of the tour. The winner of the game will be the person whose predictions are closest to the actual performances of his or her selected eleven players in all ten matches.

The prize: Win the trip of a lifetime for yourself and three family members or friends to see the Christmas Test match between Australia and England, which begins in Melbourne on December 24. We will provide flights, hotel accommodation for two weeks in Melbourne and tickets to each day of the Test match.

Twenty runners-up will each receive a pair of tickets to one of England's six Test matches against New Zealand and South Africa this summer. Full details of this prize will appear shortly in *The Times*.

What to do: Simply study the 17 names of the England tour party printed on the 1st XI list. Then select your XI, bearing in mind that you must pick six from the batsman category and four from the bowler category. You must also pick one of the wicketkeepers, Stewart or Russell, and designate him as wicketkeeper. Whichever of these two players you do not choose as your wicketkeeper, you may nominate as one of your six batsmen. When you telephone your entry, you will be asked for your wicketkeeper selection first. You may not pick any player twice.

For each of your eleven players, you will be asked to give your predictions of the total number of runs they will make in the international matches (five Test matches and five one-day internationals, which allows a maximum of 15 innings), and then the total number of wickets they will take.

In the case of the designated wicketkeeper, catches and stumpings will count as wickets. When you call *The Times* 1st XI number, you will be asked to express each selection numerically. For example, if you have selected Alec Stewart as your wicketkeeper, and are predicting that he will score 350 runs and take 25 wickets, your entry would read:

02 350 25

Throughout the period of

NO CRICKETING environment is more testing than the West Indies. A long line of fearsome fast bowlers has prevented any touring team from winning a series there for 21 years. Michael Atherton is the latest England captain to try to end that record but he is leading an inexperienced England team. Who will flourish and who will flounder?

In *The Times* 1st XI game, you can pick the team you would like to see and measure its performance against the players' real statistics which will be published after every international match in *The Times*. Whether you enter for your own satisfaction or to pit your selection skills against friends or colleagues, the game should add to the excitement of what should be a memorable series. And for those who prove the best at 1st XI cricket, there will be some memorable prizes, including the trip of a lifetime to see England play Australia in the Christmas Test at Melbourne.

international matches, *The Times* will print the running totals of all 17 players. After April 21, the last day of the fifth Test, the final totals of each player will be compared to readers' individual selections.

The difference between predicted totals for each player in each category and their actual totals will be measured in points: one point for each run, and 20 points for each wicket, regardless of whether you

Feb 16: First one-day international (Barbados)
Feb 19-24: First Test (Jamaica)
Feb 25: Second one-day international (Jamaica)
Mar 2: Third one-day international (St Vincent)
Mar 5: Fourth one-day international (Trinidad)
Mar 6: Fifth one-day international (Trinidad)
Mar 17-22: Second Test (Guyana)
Mar 25-30: Third Test (Trinidad)
Apr 5-13: Fourth Test (Barbados)
Apr 16-21: Fifth Test (Antigua)

have underestimated or overestimated. Three examples of how predictions would be measured are given below. The winner will be the reader with the fewest points.

No allowance can be made if a player is injured or sent home for any reason, nor for loss of play due to weather conditions or any other external factors. Readers should bear these points in mind when making selections. No substitutions will be allowed.

The closing date for telephone entries is noon on Wednesday, February 16, the day of the opening one-day international in Barbados.

You can enter as many times as you like, but each entry requires a separate tele-

phone call. You can enter on your own, with your family (up to a maximum of four people) or a joint team (maximum of four) with your friends, but all callers must be aged 18 or over.

When you have selected your team, check what type of telephone you are using. You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or "pulse" telephone.

Once you have found a Touch-tone telephone, you can enter by dialling 0891 500 103. The lines are open now. Then just follow the simple step-by-step instructions on the line. Listen carefully and take your time. The recorded message will ask you to key in the full set of selections (player reference number, number of runs, number of wickets) for each of your 11 chosen players in turn, starting with the designated wicketkeeper.

You will then be asked to record your name, address and daytime phone number. Finally, you will be given an eight-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). You will need this if you are a winner. If you cannot get through, please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times* 1st XI bat to record your selections and your PIN.

Only readers in the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere outside the United Kingdom and Channel Islands may enter by post.

Complete *The Times* 1st XI bat and send it, with your name and address and daytime telephone number, to:

*The Times* 1st XI,  
PO Box 1803,  
London NW1 8QN.

Entries must arrive by first post on February 16.

## THE TIMES

### To select your eleven from the England tour party call:

# 0891 500103

No	Name	Runs	Wickets
<b>WICKETKEEPERS</b>			
01	R C Russell		
02	A J Stewart		
<b>BATSMEN</b>			
03	M A Atherton		
04	G A Hick		
05	N Hussain		
06	M P Maynard		
07	M R Ramprakash		
08	R A Smith		
09	G P Thorpe		
<b>BOWLERS</b>			
10	A R Caddick		
11	A R C Fraser		
12	A P Igglesden		
13	C C Lewis		
14	D E Malcolm		
15	J D K Salisbury		
16	P C R Tufnell		
17	S L Watkins		

Your Personal Identification Number:

Calls cost 30p a minute cheap rate, 40p a minute at other times. Calls last around 6 minutes.

## How England may perform

By SIMON WILDE

IN PREDICTING the performances of the England players in the Caribbean it is worth bearing in mind the kind of overall totals of runs and wickets the team might expect to make. Weather permitting, England might anticipate scoring in the region of 3,250 runs and taking about 110 wickets in the ten international matches.

These figures are based on the average totals in international matches of the last four teams to tour the West Indies: England in 1990, Australia in 1991, South Africa in 1992 and Pakistan in 1993. These sides scored about 450 runs per Test match (excluding England's Test in Guyana which was abandoned without a ball bowled) and 200 runs per one-day international. They took 16 wickets per Test and six per one-day game.

However, unless England field an unchanged side throughout the five Tests and five one-day internationals (a highly unlikely event), the total runs and wickets of a 1st XI will be smaller than these average totals. Also to be

deducted are extras (which usually contribute some 15 per cent of a team's runs and are not credited to batsmen) and run outs (which are not credited to the bowler).

It is also worth bearing in mind how easily runs and wickets can accrue in the one-day game. Batsmen who might struggle in the traditional atmosphere of a Test may respond positively to the limited-overs game.

In 1991, Geoff Marsh, the Australia opening batsman, struggled in the Test series. After making half-centuries in the Tests in Jamaica and Guyana, he did not score more than 12 in any of his final six innings as he fell prey to the new-ball bowlers, in particular Ambrose, who took his wicket four times. In all, his nine Test innings produced only 226 runs.

In the one-day internationals, though, it was a different story. Marsh struck a rich vein of form and turned in scores of 26, 23, 81, 113 and 106 not out, boosting his aggregate in the ten internationals to a healthy 575.

HOW PREDICTIONS ARE MEASURED	
<b>Player: Jack Russell (wicketkeeper)</b>	<b>Player: Robin Smith (batsman)</b>
Predicted runs: 350	Predicted runs: 440
Actual runs: 275	Actual runs: 560
Difference: 75	Difference: 120
Points (75 x 1): 75	Points (120 x 1): 120
Predicted wickets for and all: 25	Predicted wickets: 0
Actual wickets: 22	Actual wickets: 1
Difference: 3	Difference: 1
Points (3 x 20): 60	Points (1 x 20): 20
<b>TOTAL POINTS (75 + 60): 135</b>	<b>TOTAL POINTS (120 + 20): 140</b>

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

1. Only applications made through *The Times* 1st XI telephone lines will be accepted from readers in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. Postal applications will only be accepted from readers in the Republic of Ireland and outside the United Kingdom and must be received by the closing date. Only one postal entry per household is permitted.

2. They must be received by noon on Wednesday, February 16, 1994. There is no limit to the number of telephone applica-

tions any person or household may make. The lines are open now.

3. Only players published in *The Times* 1st XI list will be accepted as entries into the 1st XI competition. Incorrect entries null and void with no refund. No correspondence related to players selected will be entered into.

4. The 11 players selected must be drawn from the 17 in the published list. Six must be drawn from those designated as batsmen, four from the bowlers. One must be drawn from the

wicketkeeper category although either Stewart or Russell may also be selected as a batsman if not picked as wicketkeeper. No player may be picked twice.

5. The *Times* independent panel of experts will provide updated records of each player's performance on a regular basis.

6. Inaudible or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry.

7. Offer is open to readers over the age of 18.

8. The first prize will go to the team with the lowest total score. If there is more than one entrant with the same total of points, the winner will be decided by tie-break.

In the first instance of a tie, the entrant whose selected eleven made the most appearances in the ten matches would be adjudged the winner. We will investigate complaints but our decision is final and we

will not enter into correspondence regarding the competition.

9. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to *The Times* 1st XI form part of the terms and conditions for participation.

10. Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times.

11. Calls should take around six minutes.

Lots of this Valentine's.



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# Samaranch must beware revolt from within IOC

FROM DAVID MILLER IN LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, have come under fire from Norway's most famous sportsman, Vegard Ulvang, winner of three gold medals in cross-country skiing at Albertville two years ago. Yet Ulvang's public criticism is nothing compared with the mood of dissent among rank-and-file IOC members.

There is even informal talk here of some minority national Olympic committees withdrawing from the Olympic Games in the near future in the absence of more consultative administration. There has not been a mood of such anxiety, and insecurity among members, in the 14 years since Samaranch was elected president.

Unless he responds to that mood, his reign could end to the sound of hammering at his door instead of the acclaim which his many achievements deserve. Shop-floor mutiny is in the air.

Ulvang's outburst is a serious embarrassment to Norway, host of the Winter Games that begin on Saturday, more than to the IOC. The Nordic skiing hero, who personifies the sporting traditions of Norway's ferocious winters, is the competitor who will take the oath at the opening ceremony. On Tuesday, he condemned the movement that has glorified him.

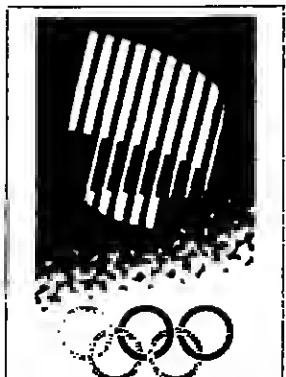
Speaking on television — in an interview recorded last month — he accused the IOC of lacking democracy, and abused Samaranch for having been a minister under the Franco government. It is the worst breach of protocol since the Black Power protest by two American sprinters in 1968.

At an executive board meeting, there were demands for the strongest protest to the Lillehammer organisers before a formal lunch today with

King Harald. Only the intervention of Vitaly Smirnov, of Russia, persuaded his more incensed colleagues to moderate their anger.

The embarrassment is primarily Norway's. It was, after all, only the democratic constitution of the Charter that, in 1988, made possible the election of this tiny town of 23,000 inhabitants as host for these Games.

Moreover, Ulvang's fame is partially established by being Olympic champion, so his comments on Norwegian Channel 2 are flogging his own nest. The Norwegian team press anathema, Audun Tjønn-



Lillehammer'94

slund, said yesterday: "We have discussed Ulvang's comments and defend his right to voice his opinion, but we agree the timing of the publication was unfortunate."

Samaranch has long enough emphasised that his function during the Franco regime is suddenly well-known and accepted by the Spanish public for them to be his judge. Much more alarming for him should be the rumblings within his own fortress.

"As a pilot, when you are in a hurry, you are in danger," Willi Kaltschmitt, the Guate-

malan member, said yesterday, with reference to Tuesday's failed attempt by the executive board to reduce host city elections to a shortlist of two. The failure to inform the members of the proposal in advance underlines the increasing rift between board and rank-and-file.

For 14 years, Samaranch, by an adroit combination of political anticipation, studiously researched information on in-house opinion, and shrewd judgment of rivals, attained his objectives by stealth and subtlety. Now, in his final four years, he must switch style to ensure that he has the first-hand loyalty of the members whose support he needs to complete his necessary overhaul of the Olympic movement.

Jacques Rogge, of Belgium, said yesterday: "Samaranch has achieved 80 per cent of his revolution, and is admired for it. There remain five targets for him: the tightening of drugs control; the establishment of the International Court of Appeal; the success of the Atlanta Games — which has some serious difficulties; the rationalisation of financial demands from the big international federations, such as athletics; and a revised IOC membership election system. But he must engage the support of the members."

The insecurity is heightened by unofficial proposals drawn up by Tomas Bach, one of Germany's two members, for reducing membership from 90 to 70, introducing all federation presidents as ex officio members, and the re-election of IOC members after an initial eight years, instead of life membership to 75. Unless Samaranch is careful, he faces like Margaret Thatcher, an internal revolution, which was unimaginable only last year.

Manchester probe, page 6

## Host nation's hopes rest on Aamodt

David Powell talks to a Norwegian skier under intense pressure from his fellow countrymen to collect a gold medal



Aamodt could be Norway's answer to Tomba in these Olympics. Photograph: Stefano Rellandini

No wonder Kjetil André Aamodt prefers not to contemplate failure at the Winter Olympics, which begin in Lillehammer on Saturday. There would be his own disappointment and that of the host nation, while the accountants would be asking what went wrong.

"I must just concentrate on my skiing and not think about all the people who want me to win," Aamodt said. He is Norway's answer to Alberto Tomba and Marc Girardelli, the principal characters of Alpine ski racing in the late eighties and early nineties. Can he deliver in his most important competitive assignment?

Aamodt is Norway's outstanding hope for a worthwhile return on his country's huge investment in Alpine skiing since it learned, in 1988, that it would be staging the 1994 Winter Games. If he triumphs in all the races he is capable of winning, he could take four gold medals home to Oslo.

In 1988, Norway's Alpine budget was four million kroner (about £360,000); this season it is 17 million (about £1,550 million), mainly provided by sponsorship and government sources. The main backer is Bergesen, Norway's largest shipping owner.

As Norway saturates the Olympic Alpine events with a full complement of skiers, most capable of winning medals, it may reflect that, in the 1988 Calgary Games, the men's team comprised only three skiers.

Not a medal was won. "The Norwegian Olympic committee has always had money. It just did not pay much attention to Alpine skiing," Jan Fredrik Kvinnestad, the Norwegian ski federation's spokesman, said.

"We looked at what we were doing wrong and put it right," Johan Baumann, the Norwegian federation president, said. Quickly. At the Albertville Olympics the Norwegian team won two gold medals and two bronze.

"We set out to be the leading Alpine power by the time of the 1994 Olympics," Baumann added. "It has come about for a set of reasons: we have many skiers to choose from, we are a strong jumping and nordic country, and Alpine skiing was seen as a trendy sport to follow by the young." Count Aamodt is that number.

He was among the first

successes of the new investment, winning a world junior title and now, at 22, possesses one Olympic and two senior world gold medals. "I was never particularly interested in nordic skiing," he said in his perfect English. "I like to ski down, not walk up."

What a difference two years have made in Aamodt's life. Nothing was expected of him in Albertville. Less than three months before the Games were due to begin, he was admitted to hospital with glandular fever so debilitating that he had to be drip-fed.

"It was the worst experience of my life," he said. "I could do nothing. My goal

was to eat." Yet, remarkably, despite being advised he would not ski within six months, he returned to training almost immediately and, six weeks later, won the Olympic super giant slalom.

Last winter, in Morioka, Japan, Aamodt was the outstanding skier of the world championships, winning the slalom and giant slalom and finishing second in the combined.

The only discipline in which Aamodt probably does not have a chance in Lillehammer is the downhill, which is on Sunday, the first event on the Alpine programme. A medal, however,

may be within his reach. Girardelli, from Luxembourg, who has won a record five overall World Cup titles, and Tomba, the Italian with three Olympic gold medals, have been forced into the background by Aamodt this season. There has never been a Norwegian winner of the men's overall World Cup but Aamodt leads the present standings.

The Norwegians should make the most of success now because there is no knowing how long it will last. "Already we know that, after Lillehammer, we have to reduce our budget by about 20 per cent," Baumann said.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Andrew should not hold others to blame

From Mr R. H. Wilson

Sir, Why should one of the best players in England have to have his thoughts reported in the press in order to draw attention to the fact that rugby union is exposed to poor decisions by poor referees?

Is Rob Andrew (Justice done but law and order alert), February 7) being realistic in assuming that the laws of the game can be interpreted justly? Should he not adopt the old adage that the decision of the referee is final? The Scots have had to, despite the suspicion that it was probably not a Scotsman's hand committing the final offence that led to England's winning penalty.

Referees tend to regulate by what they think they saw. They can't see everything and those who watch television know only too well that every lineout and every collapsed scrum require choices to be made to allocate blame.

If you can't defeat a poor

side of limited resources and tactics, why blame the referee? If you know beforehand to what standards he will regulate the game, or if you discern whilst playing, then show class and adapt.

Yours faithfully,  
R. H. WILSON,  
1 Easter Currie Court,  
Edinburgh 14.

From the Earl of Haddo  
Sir, What a pity that the balanced and fair reporting of a stirring Calcutta Cup should be so spoiled by the mean-spirited commentary of Rob Andrew.

He seems to feel that what was quite plainly an inferior team should lie down and let England trample all over it. Leaving aside his judgments on the referee, if a kicking game is required to unsettle the opposition, then so be it.

If there is a regular stand-off half of the past decade who has consistently reduced opposing teams and enor-

crowds to a state of stupefied boredom, then one needs to look no further than Andrew himself.

Yours faithfully,  
HADDO,  
22 Beaulieu Road, W6.

From Mr Dan White  
Sir, Rob Andrew's comments were hasty and ill-considered. Surely a player of his distinction should not criticise at length the referee in a match in which he has just played.

There is not much to support his insistence that Scotland were consistently offside under the high ball. Indeed, there is far more evidence of England's illegal tactics in forming blocking screens ahead of the catcher, for which England were fortunate not to be penalised.

As to other infringements at the lineouts and in the loose, it is the usual case of six of one and half a dozen of the other, and the Scots apparently feel they were unlucky in the balance of decisions.

It is extraordinary to witness whinging in victory. Let alone in defeat. The England captain's reaction after the game was surely the more balanced and justified response.

Yours sincerely,  
DAN WHITE,  
50 Caithness Road, SW14.

From Mr G. W. Rees  
Sir, Rob Andrew is rightly gripped. A referee with the name McLachlan could never be fair to an Englishman. What did he do when Rory Underwood deliberately knocked on? He turned his blind eye; and it was his other eye that saw Gary Armstrong unsparingly avoid the England back row to plant the ball a millimetre short of the tryline.

It was ungenerous of the Scots not allowing the England forwards to take control, yet jolly sporting of the England forwards for not disrupting the Scots, and there was no need for the Scots to inflict on themselves the injuries suffered by Armstrong, Wainwright, Weir and Scott Hastings. Justice done?

Yours faithfully,  
G. W. REES,  
119 Beechwood Road,  
Margam,  
Port Talbot,  
West Glamorgan.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They must include a daytime telephone number.

### Referees need more support

From Mr John Prentice

Sir, Rob Andrew writes (February 7) that Scotland were constantly offside in the match at Murrayfield on Saturday. This is not the first time he has read this, not only of the Scots but of their spoiling game, but of others too.

Very few tries are going to be scored by the backs under the modern laws if the offside law is not strictly enforced, and it is hard to see how referees are going to be able to do so when they have to direct their attention to so many other things.

Why not, as in football, give the men running the line the power to flag for offside, since they are ideally placed to do so. One would not want to see them invested with too many powers to interrupt the flow of the game, but surely this manner is now crucial and something should be done about it.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PRENTICE,  
Gentilhurst, Fernhurst,  
Haslemere, Surrey.

From Mr R. E. J. Dennis  
Sir, Following the two rugby union internationals last weekend, I am more than ever convinced that the higher the

value of a try, the more teams will give away penalties rather than concede a try.

Both were lost by kickers missing kickable goals, rather than won by superior teams. Similarly, New Zealand lost to England in November, not because England played better (which they did) but because young Wilson had an off-day with the boot.

Watching the replays of both recent games, knowing the results and therefore able to take stock, one almost felt that each game could have been replaced by a contest between two kickers given, say, ten kicks at goal from various parts of the field.

Surely the answer to this strangled game is to admit the failure of the policy of increased points for a try, and reduce the value back to the three points of years ago. This would cause teams to be more afraid to risk the probable loss of three penalty points, particularly with today's precision kickers in action, rather than the mere possibility of a try.

Yours faithfully,  
BOB DENNIS,  
The Stables, 5 Hind Stile,  
Higham Ferrers,  
Northamptonshire.

### Scotland's gain

From Mr N. W. P. Cole

Sir, As a supporter of the England rugby union team, I was, naturally, delighted when Jonathan Callard's last-minute penalty at Murrayfield sailed between the posts.

As a supporter of all that is best in sport, I was even more moved by Gavin Hastings's tearful appearance on television a few minutes later.

Many people believe that much of what sport once offered has been ruined by money; we fear for the possible future of rugby and how it, too, might become stained by commercial greed.

If anyone, however, doubted that top sports performers retain pride in appearing for their country, or see sport merely as a lucrative means of earning a living, then surely Hastings will have dispelled those doubts.

Scotland may have been beaten in the match last Saturday, but they gained far more than they lost.

Yours faithfully,  
N. W. P. COLE,  
Hawthorn Cottage,  
Cold Norton,  
nr Stone,  
Staffordshire.

### Many a slip

From Mr Bob Prichard

Sir, Last Saturday I experienced a remarkable piece of "Nanny State" bureaucracy.

When I arrived at the away supporters' entrance for the third division match between Gillingham and Crewe Alexandra, a steward carried out the usual check for dangerous objects in my bag.

He saw The Times Magazine and told me that, under a club rule, no newspapers were allowed in the ground. A WFC confirmed it, saying that someone had been hurt at an earlier match, slipping on torn-up newspaper. I was given the option of putting the magazine in a bin or leaving it at the club shop to collect later.

I walked away, folded it up and placed it in an inside pocket of my coat — and then entered the ground, after another bag search. Apparently, the food wrappings I still had in my bag could not be slipped on — and inside the ground you could buy club programmes and plastic cups of coffee, etc.

Yours faithfully,  
BOB PRICHARD,  
4 Roundmead Avenue,  
Loughton, Essex.

## Course not up to scratch

FROM MEL WEBB IN TENERIFE

GOLFERS on the PGA European Tour, used to plying their trade in reasonable comfort if not always in the lap of luxury, received a rude awakening as they gathered here for the Tenerife Open, which starts at Golf del Sur today.

They have found a course that is overplayed, under-prepared and generally no where near the standard expected of a Tour venue, and an administration at the club that David Garland, the tournament director, who is not given to gratuitous hyperbole, described as "obstructive" yesterday.

"We came down here in November and advised the club what needed to be done," he said. "When our agronomy staff got here last Thursday, they were not allowed on the course until the head greenkeeper here arrived. It became obvious almost immediately that the work had not been carried out."

Golf del Sur has received

much publicity since the tournament was launched in 1989, and at the height of the season more than 350 golf-hungry players from northern Europe pass through the club's 27 holes every day. At £35 a round, that represents big money.

Sergio Gomez, the manager of José María Olazábal, who makes his first appearance of the season this week, has promoted the tournament for the last two years, but, tired of the club's attitude, has given up the job. With no Gomez after this week, it seems doubtful that the Tour will be coming here next year.

As far as the Tour is concerned, it will be a small blow, for it needs such tournaments as this to give its younger players the chance to play some early-season golf in decent weather. The inescapable feeling is that the club would be delighted.

Be that as it may, the presence of Olazábal gives the

affair some respectability. He is not, however, a happy man. His game, he says, is as erratic as it was all last season. "It is very important for me to get my game back, but it is not close," he said gloomily.

Mark James, the champion, is playing only because he is defending the title. Otherwise, the impression is that he would not have been within 2,000 miles of Tenerife, but would have been tending his garden in Leeds.

He comes to the tournament having played in only one event since the end of October, and will next be seen in the Benson and Hedges International in early May.

If he is to make the Ryder Cup team in 1995, which he intends to do, he will have to be playing for 16 months almost without a break, and does not want to burn himself out, he says. James, too, claims he has no chance of victory but, unlike Olazábal, he is in an upbeat mood.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

#### APROCTOUS

(c) Having no anus or fundament, from the Greek *o* privative + *prōktos* the anus. *Rolleston, Animal Life*, 1870: "No vertebrate animal is aproctous."

#### BODLE

(d) A Scottish copper coin of the value of two pennies (Scots) or (c. 1600) one sixth of an English penny, the smallest coin, hence, like *forting*, to the phrase *not to care a bodle*, reputed to be from the name of a mint-master, *Bothwell*, but no documentary evidence is cited: *Walter Scott, The Abbot*, 1820: "It was not that I cared a brass bodle for his benison or malison."

#### SOLANDER

(e) A box made in the form of a book, used for holding botanical specimens, papers, maps, etc., an eponym from the name of the Swedish botanist D. C. Solander (1736-1782): "I shall be as bappy in the arrival of my Solander as he whose name it bears was in arrive once more to England after his circumnavigation."

#### SCHIZZO

(a) A sketch, the Italian word, said to be from the Latin *schēdus*, of *schēda* a raft, *schēdium* an extemporaneous poem, from the Greek *schēdion* done or made off-hand, extempore. "The Schizos are ordinarily reduced into Cartoons in Fresco Painting, or Copied and Enlarged in Oyl-Painting."

#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rd1-e2 Kxd1 Qd3+ (Black actually played 2... e2, which wins but is slightly less accurate) 3 Kc1 Rc4+ 4 Kb2 Rc2+ and mate in two more moves.

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Post this completed entry no later than tomorrow to: The Times Rising Stars Competition, 118-120 Gt. Titchfield Street, London W1P 7AJ.

**ENTRY FORM**

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NAME OF ACTUAL RUNNER SELECTED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME CREATED: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRANT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_







# Promotion remains Charlton's priority

By Peter Ball

CHARLTON Athletic managers evidently do things differently. As if being half of the only joint-managerial establishment in the country was not different enough, Alan Curbishley broke all the canons of accepted managerial behaviour on Tuesday night and greeted his side's giant-killing act in beating Blackburn Rovers 1-0 at Ewood Park with a metaphorical shrug of the shoulders.

The glory of the FA Cup has always been the sight of smaller clubs embarrassing big ones, but for Liverpool, Everton and Blackburn Rovers to be beaten on their own grounds by first division sides suggests there is more quality outside the FA Cup Premiership than is generally allowed. Charlton, like Bolton Wanderers and Bristol City

Wycombe Wanderers, who won the FA Trophy last season as a GM Vauxhall Conference club, are favourites to return to Wembley in April for the final of the Autoglass Trophy.

Wycombe, who beat Fulham on penalties on Tuesday night after drawing 2-2 after extra time at Craven Cottage, will play the second leg of their southern area final against Swansea City, who beat Leyton Orient 2-0, at Adams Park.

The winners of that tie meet either Carlisle United, who also needed extra time before overcoming Lincoln City 2-1 on a mud-soaked pitch at Brunton Park, Stockport County or Huddersfield Town in the final.

already this season, beat higher-ranked opposition with a combination of resolute defending and some excellent football which impressed most neutrals.

Curbishley was less enthralled: "I'm not going to go overboard about it," he said. "We've not done anything yet. We can quite easily get beaten in the next round at Bristol or Stockport and then this will all be forgotten."

He was equally unexcited when one of his local reporters tried to jolly him along at the prospect of the FA Cup making a significant financial contribution to his club. "If we go to Stockport they can only hold 8,000," he pointed out. "Bristol can hold 25,000, but you don't get that much out of it, you know."

If that sounded miserly at a time when Charlton's travelling supporters, almost a quarter of their average home attendance, were basking in their reflected glory, there was more to come. The manager next turned his withering gaze on suggestions that the win was the stuff of FA Cup romance with the little man beating the rich one. In doing so, he explained his resolutely unexcited response.

"We want to get away from the old impoverished image," he said. "Although our team didn't cost a lot, we don't want to go on about the prince and the pauper. The only way we can get away from those comparisons is by getting into the Premiership, where you can generate enough money to make us a bigger club."

"I'm far more concerned about our game with Watford on Saturday. I want to go up. This was a great achievement for us. I thought the back five were magnificent and anyone who watched us over the two games would say we deserved it," he said. "But I don't want this to overshadow our league games. I would have swapped this result for beating Grimsby last Saturday."

The fight for promotion places is intense, but Charlton's side undoubtedly looks worth a lot more than the £400,000 Curbishley and Steve Gryn paid to assemble it. Minto has already been assessed as a £1 million player if Charlton were to decide to sell him and several others did their prospects some good on Tuesday night, with Stuart Palmer a tower of strength at centre half and Pitcher having an excellent all-round game in midfield as well as scoring his memorable goal.

"There was a bit of glory for the lads and after this game one or two of our players will be a bit more famous now," Curbishley said. "But if anyone wants to buy any of them, it will cost a lot of money."

"We don't need to sell any more. It's not like the Robert Lee situation, where we had to sell because we needed money to get back to The Valley. We've done that now. What we have to do now is beat Watford to keep in the top two in the league."

Yet, while the team returned to London and their celebrations, Curbishley stayed in the north to watch Stockport and Bristol. City battle to be Charlton's next Cup opponents.



Ian Rush, looking forward to continuing his international career with Wales under John Toshack

## Rush pledges future to Wales

By Keith Pike

IAN Rush, who had threatened to retire from international competition after the decision by the Football Association of Wales not to renew Terry Yorath's contract as manager, has had a change of heart.

The Liverpool forward, his country's all-time leading goalscorer, has pledged his support for John Toshack. Yorath's successor, and will be available for Wales's European championship qualifying campaign that begins in September.

"I know it may look like a turnaround, but we all say things in the heat of the moment," Rush said. "Now I've had time to think about it, I realise there is no bigger honour than representing your country at any sport. I

think it would now be wrong if I chose not to play again for Wales. I owe it to so many people to play, especially Welsh fans."

Creditors of Barnet, the Endleigh Insurance League second division club, yesterday agreed to a rescue package that should guarantee the club's immediate future. Between them, creditors were owed around £1.7 million, but with a required 75 per cent majority, they accepted a proposal from David Buchler, the Barnet chairman, which will see around £300,000 made available to meet debts. Preferential creditors will receive 50 pence in the pound and unsecured creditors ten pence in the pound.

The Football Association acted quickly yesterday to end a second potentially embarrassing dispute over contracts. The day after threatening to move international and other leading matches, including the FA Cup final, away from Wembley Stadium, the FA seemed likely to be drawn into conflict with the seven clubs scheduled to stage matches during the European championship finals in 1996. By yesterday afternoon, however, it appeared that the problem had been resolved.

The controversy was sparked by Leslie Silver, the Leeds United chairman, who said in a radio interview that his club may reconsider its decision to act as one of the hosts for the finals. Under regulations imposed by UEFA, the governing body of European football, the clubs will only be able to keep ten per cent of their gross gate receipts. "We are very concerned about the economics of

staging the championships," Silver said. "The FA, hotels, restaurants and other businesses will make a lot of money, but, frankly, at the moment I cannot see how the clubs are going to make anything out of it."

A meeting with the other clubs involved — Aston Villa, Liverpool, Manchester United, Newcastle United, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest — to plan a joint approach had been arranged for next week. Yesterday, however, the FA contacted Silver, who said: "The FA say financial help will be available, so the manner, as far as we are concerned, is now totally defused."

The under-21 international between England and Denmark, which was held at Wembley at senior level on March 9, is to be played at Brentford.

## Taylor strikes form on Wembley stage

DENNIS Taylor, the former world professional snooker champion, recorded his first 5-0 victory for two years when he followed up a 5-1 first-round win over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Taylor, who will now meet Neal Foulds tomorrow for a place in the semi-finals, had not administered a whitewash since he beat Darren Morgan in the last 16 of the 1992 European Open.

Taylor, 45, compiled breaks of 84, 53 and 48 to lead 3-0 before he stole the fourth frame on the pink with a 34 clearance when Thorne, badly out of sorts, had missed the penultimate red. "This is what the game is all about," Taylor said, expressing his preference for the sport's more glamorous tournaments. "It may be an invitation event, but there are some ranking tournaments that don't come anywhere near this."

## Whitakers' cup aim

EQUESTRIANISM: Great Britain will be represented by the Whitaker brothers, Michael and John, Veronique Whitaker and Nigel Coupe in the Volvo World Cup qualifier at the Brussels International Horse Show on Saturday. The Whitaker brothers are equal sixth in the grand slam series at present. The show returns to the competition calendar after a three-year absence.

Eighteen nations, including Australia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, have entered the third world dressage championships for disabled riders, to be held at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire, from July 21 to 24. Organisers have raised all but £25,000 of the £165,000 required to stage the event.

## Dunning leaves Towers

BASKETBALL: Mark Dunning, the coach of London Towers, yesterday left the Budweiser League club by mutual agreement (Nicholas Harding writes). Dunning, 37, was in his second season with Towers, who are fifth in the league and aiming to reach the championship play-offs for the third successive year. Roy Childs, a club director, said: "The players have got to be motivated in order to get us to Wembley but, as a board, we didn't feel they had been motivated enough in recent weeks." Charlie Bannerman, Dunning's assistant, takes over until the end of the season.

## Nerurkar leads team

ATHLETICS: Richard Nerurkar, the 1993 World Marathon Cup champion, will lead Britain's challenge for the marathon at the European championships in Helsinki in August. Nerurkar has a best time of 2hr 10min 35sec and will be one of the pre-race favourites. In the women's race, Angela Hulley will return to major international competition. A bronze medal-winner in the 1990 Commonwealth Games, Hulley has a best time of 2hr 30min 51sec.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM: Men: R. Nerurkar, S. Bloor, A. Green, J. Soley. Women: A. Hulley, O. Sanderson, M. Sutton, L. Turner.

## Dickson signs Farr

YACHTING: Chris Dickson, the New Zealand skipper leading the Whitbread Round the World Race, yesterday signed Bruce Farr to design his challenger for next year's America's Cup. The partnership strengthens the credibility of Dickson's fledgling Pacific Challenge 95 syndicate at a crucial stage in its fund-raising. Blake was almost 2,000 miles ahead of schedule yesterday in his attempt with Robin Knox-Johnston, his co-skipper, to break the 79-day record for a non-stop circumnavigation in the 92ft catamaran, ENZA New Zealand.

## Road event goes open

CYCLING: The 66-member association of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) will today be told that the inclusion of professionals, for the first time, in this year's road and track event at Victoria, British Columbia, is confirmed and not subject to further appeal. A decision that the event would be open was first reported in *The Times* last year but produced immediate protests from Scotland and Wales. England also complained only to withdraw objections when the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) was asked to adjudicate for the second time.

## Maradona plans to play in World Cup finals

DIEGO Maradona says he intends to play in the World Cup finals this summer, despite the controversial incidents he has been involved in during the past fortnight.

"I have all my batteries ready to play," the Argentina captain was reported to have told a news agency in Buenos Aires. "I'm going to play. I'll keep playing until I'm 50 and, if on the contrary I have to retire, that's no problem." Maradona was also said to have admitted firing an air rifle at journalists outside his home after quitting his club, Newell's Old Boys, in a dispute over his fitness and willingness to train. "I shot with a rifle at one," he said. "I know how to admit mistakes."

Julio Grondona, the president of the Argentina Football Association, said he believed Maradona could still play a leading role in the finals and thought his problems were caused by difficulties in coming to terms with his decline. "He can go to the United States, as only half the player he was in Mexico [1986], but he can still be very useful," Grondona said. "He will have no problems with motivation, but he cannot be the player he was and this has caused him mental problems."

Defensor Sporting, the Uruguayan club, are to approach Maradona after the player was reported as saying they were the type of club he would like to join.

The United States and Romania, who have been drawn together in the World Cup finals, could meet in a dress rehearsal in Hong Kong this weekend. They are competing in a four-team tournament and will play in the final on Sunday, provided they can overcome Denmark and a Home Kong League XI respectively today.

A weakened Colombia, lacking a number of its better-known players, beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Jeddah yesterday. Aristizabal scored the game's only goal after 33 minutes. The two sides, both of whom have qualified for the World Cup finals in the United States in June, drew 1-1 last weekend.

Birmingham City, the Endleigh Insurance League first division club, has agreed to a transfer request from Paul Tait after a dispute with Barry Fry, the manager, over the midfielder player's fitness. Birmingham will want around £500,000. A number of clubs, including Crystal Palace and Portsmouth, have expressed an interest in Tait.

Sheffield United have completed the transfer of Willie Falconer, their midfielder player, to Celtic. The club had originally sought to recoup the £400,000 it had paid Middlesbrough for Falconer last year, but instead agreed a fee of £375,000.

Niels Jorgensen, 23, Denmark's Olympic goalkeeper, has joined

Queens Park Rangers on trial. The move follows fears that the club's current goalkeeper, Jan Stejskal, is likely to refuse a new contract when his present agreement expires at the end of the season. Stejskal, a Czech, is having a house built for him in Prague, which suggests he is keen to return home after four years in England.

Alloa, of the Scottish second division, were yesterday celebrating the prospect of a money-spinning Tennents Scottish Cup fourth round trip to the country's richest club, Rangers. More than 4,000 spectators saw Tuesday night's 2-0 success against the Highland League club, Ross County.

### FOR THE RECORD

#### FOOTBALL

NEVILLE OVERTON COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Luton 1-1; Second division: Scunthorpe v Reading 1-1. CAPITAL LEAGUE: Carlisle 1, Gillingham 3. LEAGUE: First round replay: Peterborough v Scunthorpe 1-0. FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Scunthorpe v Peterborough 2-1. INTERNATIONAL MATCH: South Africa 0, Zimbabwe 0. Last results on Tuesday: FA Cup: Fourth round replay, Blackburn v Arsenal 1-0. AUTOGASS TROPHY Semi-final: Northampton 2, Lincoln City 1. Football: 2. Wycombe Wanderers 2, Luton 1. FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Scunthorpe v Peterborough 2-1. INTERNATIONAL MATCH: South Africa 0, Zimbabwe 0. Last results on Tuesday: FA Cup: Fourth round replay, Blackburn v Arsenal 1-0. AUTOGASS TROPHY Semi-final: Northampton 2, Lincoln City 1. Football: 2. Wycombe Wanderers 2, Luton 1. FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Scunthorpe v Peterborough 2-1. INTERNATIONAL MATCH: South Africa 0, Zimbabwe 0.

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6.35 **Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors** Animated adventures (I) (629472) 4

7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (69749) 4

9.00 **Saboteur** All-Jamaica quiz game show, presented by Mana McEneaney (I) (44039) 4

9.30 **Schools! Middle English Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet** [6019669] 9.46 **Mathematical Eyes** (9266818) 10.07 **Scientific Eye** (3324497) 10.28 **Geographical Eye** Over Europe (4512836) 10.52 **Schools at Work** (3312836) 11.00 **History in Action** Hypotheticals (2263555) 11.22 **The Microcasts** (7669768) 11.40 **The French Programme** (3729478) 4

12.00 **House To House** Many even reports on business from the Houses of Parliament (20403) 4

12.30 **Sesame Street** Early learning series. The guests are the band Los Lobos (91345) 1.30 **Alfred J. Kwak** Animated adventures of a musical duck (I) (53229) 4

2.00 **FILM: Everybody Does It** (1949, b/w) starring Linda Darnell, Paul Douglas and Celeste Holm. Comedy about a staid businessman, helping his wife to start a career in opera, who is suddenly discovered to have a magnificent voice himself and persuaded to take up a singing career much to the consternation of his wife. Directed by Edmund Goulding (114768) 4

3.45 **Taken Gessen** Micheline Lancazi's animation about sexual stereotyping (7788403) 4

3.55 **Travelers** Real life reports from Zanzibar (I) (Telefed) (I) (678552) 4

4.30 **Countdown** Richard Whitley with another round of the words and numbers game. (Celefed) (S) (126) 4

5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** The guests are experts with advice to housewives on how best to prevent dishonest people from taking their way in with false open men identification (8461213) 4

5.50 **Laurel and Hardy** Animated version (I) 674687 4

6.00 **Crystal Maze** Richard O'Brien leads another group of contestants through the fantasy maze (I) (S) (66749) 4

7.00 **Channel 4 News (Telefed)** and **weather** (129403) 4


7.50 **Comment** (203213) 4

8.00 **Eat Your Greens** Sophie Grigson prepares dishes involving cauliflower, spinach and cabbage (I) (Telefed) (7855) 4

8.30 **The Pulse** Reports examining the National Health Service's complaints procedures. Jean Robinson interviews three patients who have registered complaints and to a GP who explains what it is like to be complained about. (Telefed) (2590) 4



Rachel Davies and Richard Thorp (7.00pm)



**Hommage to Danny Blanchflower (C4, 10.00pm)**

**Those Glory, Glory Days**  
*Channel 4, 10.00pm*

Julie Welch's story of a football-mad schoolgirl is as evocative in tribute to the late Danny Blanchflower, who died very much too soon. Welch's partly autobiographical script follows 13-year-old Julia (Zoe Nabbenston) and her three friends as they go to sometimes fantastic lengths to get tickets for the 1961 Cup Final. Did the real Welch really sleep overnight in the White Hart Lane goalmouth in order to be at the head of the queue? Never mind, the incident is true to the spirit of an engaging film in which Philip Saville's somewhat off-kilter direction allows full play to the writer's acute observation and offbeat comedy. Blanchflower turns up briefly as himself and look out, too, for Richard Wilson and Alexei Sayle.

**Peter Waymark**

- 7.00 **Emmerdale**. Wedding bells ring for Alan and Shirley (Teletext) (8215)
- 7.30 **The Big Story** with Dermot Murmahgan (s) (213)
- 8.00 **The Bill: Ways and Means**. PC Page arrests a shoplifter, thought to be part of a team, but Page discovers the woman's motives turn out to be more personal. (Teletext) (8213)
- 9.30 **Minder: All Quiet on the West End Front**. Arthur senses profit in the corporate hospitality business, but all does not go to plan. (Teletext) (s) (36213)
- 9.30 **Scotland Yard: Trooping the Colour**. A look at the pomp and the splendour of the security operation surrounding the ceremony. (Teletext) (83625)
- 10.00 **News at Ten** (Teletext) and weather (2550) 10.30 **London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (385749)
- 10.40 **Just a Minute**. Television version of the popular radio comedy quiz. With Nicholas Parsons, Tony Slattery, Jim Sweeney, Lee Simpson and Tony Blackburn (s) (257749)
- 11.10 **Big City**. Entertainment guide (s) (431958)
- 11.40 **Film: Ooh... You Are Awful** (1972) starring Dick Fawcett, Ronald Fraser and Pat Coombs. Comedy about a woman searching for a hidden fortune, the secret of its location having been tattooed on a woman's backside. Directed by Cliff Owen (373381)
- 1.00am **Donahue**. Phil Donahue talks to Robin Williams about his new film *Mrs Doubtfire* (26817) 2.30 **The Beat**. Music and movie magazine (t) (s) (14546)
- 3.30 **Quiz Night**. Pub and club competition (92546)
- 4.00 **The Album Show** (t) (s) (40865)
- 5.00 **Videofashion** (t) (10362)
- 5.30 **ITN Morning News** (77508). Ends at 5.00

**Cypriot Nicky's brother is missing (9.00pm)**

**9.00** **PRISON** **Secret History: Dead or Alive?**  
(Teletext) (s) (7519)

**10.00** **PRISON** **FILM: Those Glory, Glory Days**  
(1983) (Teletext) (140720)

**11.45** **Sex Talk.** A look at the variety and meaning of women's sexual fantasies (t) (636671)

**12.30am** **Dispatches.** A repeat of last night's programme (Teletext) (B865607)

**1.20** **Major Of Ullasa.** Episode one of a four part Spanish drama set in Galicia during the 1880s. In Spanish with English subtitles in 1988/1989. Ends at 2.45.

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**BRavo**

Dancing With the Devil (4514381)

**BRavo**

12,000 FLAM: Gips (1958): Romantic musical with Leslie Caron and Maurice Chevalier (6819855) 2,250pm FILM The Truth About Spring (1964) Hayley Mills falls for a rich young man (6257768) 4,00 The Flying Nun (5497497) 4,30 My Three Sons (5436381) 6,00 Beverly Hills Cop (2115519) 5,30 Denny and Mary (5473681) 6,00 Sabers of London (5500000) 6,00

Room (83478) 9.00 South  
(86265) 11.00 French  
2.00-1.00mm Boots and  
Dancing (56774) 8.00  
Dancing (23687) 11.00

**UK LIVING**

7.00pm Living (S555756) 8.00 Family Affairs (1117359) 8.30 Bon Voyage (1112861) 9.00 Days of Our Lives (6292284) 10.00 Dr Ruth (4255568) 10.30 Young and the Restless (7526774) 11.30 Madhur Jeffrey (3498316) 12.00 Stars and Signs (7135223) 12.30 Practical Living (S5978300) 12.50 House-

	call#	90690101	1.00	Bazzer	(5803229)	1.30
	Bon Voyage	(9083831)	2.00	Agency		
[2635]	Sons and	(7348585)	3.45			
[131]	East/Ender	(6592234)	4.00	Definition		
BW [4016836]	The	(1814107)	4.30	Information	(1916518)	1.00
[4039] 10.30	Benjamin	Musique	(8458805)	5.30	Fame and Fortune	(5569492) 5.45 Nitro (3224346) 6.30
	the Sullivan	Dale Smith	(1815836)	7.00	Material World	(6000404) 7.30
	Daughters	(4919300)				

1.00 East-  
1.00 The Bill (1138865)  
02567711 2.30 Also, 'Alto  
1.00 The Bill (1145671) 4.00 The  
4.55 Blankety Blank  
Us a Cue (35705768)  
59.0) 6.50 EastEnders  
27703 (2453487) 8.00  
7.00 Robin's Nest

**5.30pm** [2442381] 18.00  
**6.30** The Innes Book of  
**11.00** Top of the Pops  
**Dr Who** (748651)  
 ty from the Heart (1991)  
 ine Laila) after breaks  
 smens (1164237) 2.00-  
 (1546)  
**MTV**  
**5.00pm** Big Brother Jake (5403) 5.30 Black  
 Station (3710) 6.00 Wonder Years (7823)  
**6.30** Family Catchphrase (4403) 7.00 All  
 Cried Up (9033) 7.30 Pyramid Game (9377)  
**8.00** Cats Eyes (14316) 9.00 Lou Grant  
 (21652) 10.00 Trivial Pursuit (25039) 10.30  
 Evening Shade (96377) 11.00 Remington  
 (52720) 12.00-1.00am Big Valley (27614)

**WIS CHANNEL 3**

5:00/531 5.30 Bababobs  
addy (4384687) 7.15  
7/97565 6.15 Pugsly  
To Head (9622045) 8.30  
11.00 It's Drobbe Time  
and Tim (64519) 11.00  
12.30 Bababobs (62300)  
pm 12.45pm Granddaddy

5.00am Awake on the Wild Side (25851) 9  
8.00am VJ Ingo (1695671) 11.00 Soul  
(73213) 12.00 Greatest Hits (55769) 1.00pm  
VJ Simone (495854) 3.30 The Report  
(6580687) 3.45 At the Movies (6415042)  
4.00 16mins (8904045) 4.15 3 from 1  
(6821768) 4.30 Deal MTV (1316) 5.00 Music  
Non-Stop (65331) 7.00 Greatest Hits (34126)

Puguet (1407045) 1.15  
3651584) 1.30 Teddy  
Madeline (18923) 2.30  
(5303010) 2.45 Baber  
Can U (3743107) 3.20  
3.35 Special Feature  
Dog (6142123) 3.55  
1213) 4.00 White Fang  
Wet (69581)  
8.00 Most Wanted (93665) 9.30 Beavis and  
But-Head (156497) 10.00 The Report  
(944860) 10.15 At the Movies (994395)  
10.30 News (805519) 10.45 3 from 1  
(893774) 11.00 Party Zone (51229) 1.00am  
VJ Mantra (12492) 2.00 Videos (3712275)

**TV ASIA**

8.00am Frasier Down (99823) 7.00 Back-

al News (70126) 7.30 Asian Morning (55961)  
8.00 Hindi News (18749) 8.30 Urdu News  
(5777359) 8.45 English News (8278364)  
9.00 Berzakh (31213) 10.00 Hindi Film: Yeh  
Nazdeekiyen (881381) 1.00pm Maharajah  
(79497) 1.30 Hindi FILM Platform (709584)  
4.30 Kiddie Time (3594) 5.00-6.00 TVa and  
You (5836) 7.00 Ba Adbab Ba Mithaza  
(88307) 8.00 Fonnish News (55678) 8.15

Banana Sandwich  
 1964's *Castle* (147132)  
 ck. (73652) 12.30pm  
 1965's (96045) 1.00pm  
 1958's 1.30pm  
 Wild Side Show (9823)  
 (4294) 3.00pm  
 Attack of the Killer  
 0 Speed Racer (1774)

**TNT**  
 Theme Tribute to Jimmy Durante  
 7.00pm This Time for Keweenaw (1947) The  
 son of a singing star tells for a young

Hero Tunes (7568)  
 I At (3403) 5.30 Guts  
 (5923) 6.30-7.00 The  
 swimmer. With Esther Williams (99940836)  
 9.00 Two Stars from Boston (11946, b/w)  
 Siblings visiting New York start work at a  
 Bowery saloon (28132300)  
 11.10 You're in the Army Now (11941, b/w)  
 Phil Silvers and Jimmy Durante accidentally  
 join the army (64820010)  
 12.40am Meet the Baron (11923, b/w): A

2.00 **What's New Beer?** (1933, b/w) Buster  
 Keaton comedy (32974482)  
 3.15 **Student Tour** (1934, b/w): College  
 boys take a round-the-world trip (29583988)  
 Ends at 4.35

**RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 90.9kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: E: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN: COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY**



